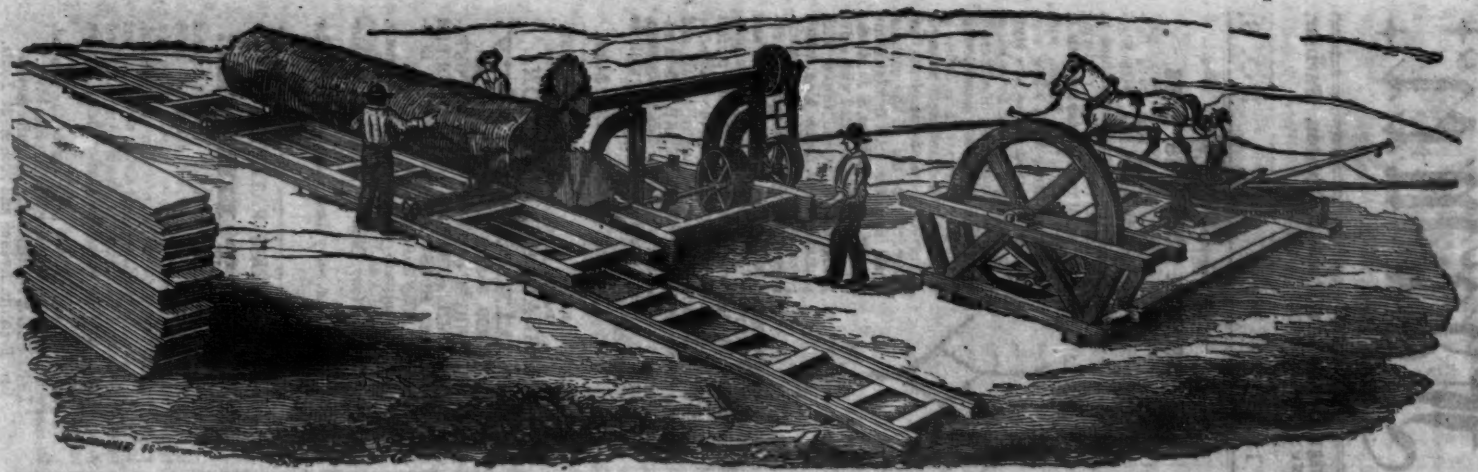
Valley Farmer.

A Monthly Agricultural Journal, Designed to Benefit the Planter, Farmer, Gardener, Fruit Grower and Stock Raiser.

VOL. 9: AUG., 1857. NO. 8.



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St. Louis, Sarrasin, 1856.

N. J. COLMAN, Editor and Publisher,
Saint Louis, Missouri.

H. P. BYRAM, Editor and Publisher,
Louisville, Kentucky.

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THE BAROMETER---ITS HISTORY AND USES.

The term Barometer is derived from two Greek words, and signifies a measure of weight. It is but a little more than two hundred years since the invention of this simple instrument, and the discovery of the nature and wonders of the atmosphere. The common pump had been long in use by the ancients, but the philosophers of those days were unable to give the true cause of the water immediately following the pump box, when it was raised in the act of pumping—not dreaming that it was the pressure of the atmosphere on the water in the well, that forced it to follow the box, but gave as a reason that "nature abhorred a vacuum."

In 1642 the government of Florence required a quantity of water to be raised to the height of 50 or 60 feet; the ordinary pump was employed, when it was ascertained that the water would not rise in the pump to a greater height than 32 feet above the well. The circumstance was communicated to Galileo, a philosopher of that age, who was unable to explain the mystery. Subsequently, Torricelli, a pupil of Galileo, suspecting the true cause, determined to prove the truth of his conjecture by employing a fluid of greater weight than water; accordingly he procured a glass tube about three feet long, open at one end and hermetically closed at the other; this he filled with quicksilver, and putting his finger upon the open end and turning that end downward and immersing it in a small vessel of quicksilver, without admitting any air, then removing his finger, he found the quicksilver in the tube to fall to a height of about twenty-nine and a half inches from the surface of the quicksilver in the vessel. This simple arrangement constitutes one of the kinds of Barometers used at the present day.

In 1647, Pascal, an eminent philosopher of Rouen, in Normandy, in order the more thoroughly to test the truth of the agency of the atmosphere in this matter, made several other experiments. He constructed two long barometers and filled them with lighter fluids of different specific gravities; one he filled wifh water and the other with wine. The result was according to the calculation he had made: the water in the tube fell to thirty-two feet two and a half inches, and the wine in the other tube only descended to thirty-two feet ten inches. The wine being lightest, rose by the pressure of the air on the liquid in the basin below, seven and a half inches higher than the water in the other tube. He made another experiment which removed all doubt in regard to the question of the weight of the atmosphere. This was to carry the tube, filled with quicksilver, to an elevated part of a mountain. Here he found that as he ascended the mountain, leaving a part of the weight of the atmosphere below him, the liquid in the tube sunk in proportion. These experiments led to the discovery of many of the wonders of the atmosphere.

At the level of the sea the pressure of the atmosphere is indicated by the average height

of the mercury in the barometer of about 30 inches. It has been found by ascending to the top of Mont Blanc, which is about 16,000 feet above the level of the sea, that the medium elevation of the mercury in the tube is only 14 inches. Under this diminished pressure, water in the ordinary pump, can only be raised about 15 feet. At the City of Mexico water can be raised in the same way about 20 feet, and on the Himalaya mountains (a greater elevation,) it can only be raised 8 or 10 feet.

There are different kinds of Barometers, but the kind in most common use, is the one first made, as described above. The "Wheel Barometer" is something similar to this, but in place of the mercury in the tube marking the changes of the weather, it is arranged with a small iron or glass weight which floats on the surface of the mercury in the lower end of the tube, which is turned upward; this weight being connected by a string to a wheel or pulley, moves a hand on a dial, which indicates the changes in the atmospheric pressure.

USES OF THE BAROMETER.

Besides serving the purpose of determining accurately the elevation of hills and mountains, the Barometer has now become a most important instrument for warning the mariner of approaching storms at sea, and thereby enabling him to shorten sail and make his yards and rigging snug before the wild elements break in fury upon his frail bark. Many accidents and ship wrecks have thus been avoided, and many lives have been saved by carefully noting this little instrument.

But it is our purpose more particularly to speak of the great practical value of the Barometer to the farmer. By a little observation he is forewarned of the approaching storm, and he can either defer the cutting of his grass or grain until it is passed; or, if he has either already in the swath, he can employ his help to secure it against damage by rain; and so with many other operations, rendering this little instrument scarcely less important to the farmer than it is to the mariner. We have had one from which we have noted the changes in the weather at least three times in every twenty-four hours, for more than fifteen years, and so useful have we found it in denoting these changes, and enabling us to govern the various operations upon the farm accordingly, that we think but few farmers would consent to do without them if their value is once understood.

In observing the Barometer, it should be first understood that the principal criterion of the kind of weather to be expected is, the *relative* movements of the mercury in the tube, and that its absolute height is only of secondary importance when atmospherical changes are to be anticipated, so that the words "Rain," "Change," "Fair," &c., which we sometimes see engraved on the scale of Barometers, are entitled to no consideratian whatever. The first makers of these instruments engraved the plates in this way before its movements were fully understood. The practice has generally been abandoned by the most intelligent instrument makers.

INDICATIONS OF THE BAROMETER.

All appearances being the same, the higher the Barometer is, the more likely the weather is to be fair. When the Barometer is high, it will be found that very dark, dense clouds pass completely over, and that there is very little probability of immediate rain.

When the Barometer is low, it inclines to rain, because the air being light it can no longer support the vapors which have become specifically heavier than the medium in which they floated, and in their descent they become united into drops and form rain.

A mistaken idea commonly prevails, that when the weather is loury and the fog and smoke settle to the earth, the air is heavy, when on the contrary, it has become so light or rarified that it can no longer sustain the vapor in it and it must assume the form of rain and descend, and this it sometimes does almost without the appearance of clouds, and though the sky may seem to promise fair weather, such appearances will not continue long. The face of the sky changes very suddenly at such times. Also, when the Barometer long continues low there is seldom much rain, though a fair day is very rare. The general character of the weather at such times is short, heavy, and sudden showers, with squalls of wind from the South-west.

The Barometer is highest of all during a long frost, with a N. W. wind; and it is the lowest of all during a thaw following a long frost and accompanied by a S. W. wind.

In places nearly on a level with the sea, rain may be expected when the mercury falls much below 30 inches. At the point of elevation where we write the mercury most generally falls below 29 inches before rain may be expected.

The foregoing remarks may not fully apply to every locality in our country, but they will generally be found correct.

To judge rightly of the changes to be expected in the weather, we should especially ascertain whether the mercury is rising or falling.

This may be seen by regularly adjusting the index of the Barometer; or, we may observe—1st. If the surface of the mercury is convex, standing higher in the middle of the tube than at the sides, it indicates the rising. If the surface be concave, it is falling; and if it appear level, the mercury is stationary. 2d. If on shaking or rapping the Barometer, the mercury ascends higher than it stood before, it indicates the rising; but if it descends, it indicates the falling.

The following rules may generally be relied upon as correct, having been confirmed by long experience and observation:

1. The rising of the mercury in the tube generally presages fair weather; the falling generally indicates rain, and if the fall be great, high winds and storms.

2. When bad weather *quickly* succeeds the falling of the mercury, it will not be of long continuance. So, also, when fair weather *soon* follows the rise of the mercury, we must not calculate on its continuance for any length of time.

3. On the contrary, if in bad weather the mercury rises considerably, and continues to advance for two or three days before fair weather sets in, we may expect a continuance of fair weather. And if in clear weather, the mercury falls remarkably for two or three days together before rain sets in, it is then highly probable that it will be succeeded by much rain, and perhaps high winds.

4. In winter, the rising indicates frosty weather. If the mercury falls three or four divisions, a thaw will certainly follow; but if it rises in a continued frost, it will generally be accompanied with snow.

5. In hot weather, the sudden falling of the mercury portends thunder.

In speaking of the Barometer, we have said nothing of the manner of reading the scale, or fractional parts of an inch, nor of the allowance to be made for variation in temperature, where extremely accurate observations are required. These may form the subject of a subsequent article. Manufacturers and dealers in these instruments usually furnish circulars which explain these matters.

For a long time the various forms of the Mercurial Barometer, were the only kinds in use, but recently several other kinds have been invented; among these is that known as the Aneroid Barometer. It was lately invented in Paris, by M. Vidi. It differs entirely from the Mercurial Barometer, being composed of a small metallic box, in which are arranged sundry springs and levers that are acted on by the pressure of the atmosphere upon the box, which is exhausted of air. The inside movements are connected with an index hand upon the outside, which traverses a dial similar to that of a clock, and records the changes in the atmospheric pressure. This form of Barometer, for strict scientific investigations, is not altogether so correct as the mercurial Barometer, yet for farmers' use it is truly valuable. It is extremely sensitive to the least variation in the pressure, and having a dial of about five inches in diameter, the wide range of the index hand renders the change readily visible. As a portable instrument it is not liable to the accidents which frequently happen to those of the ordinary kind, and will be found very convenient and interesting to the railroad traveler in marking the various altitudes of the country over which he may pass.

Mr. L. Woodruff, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, is engaged in making mercurial Barometers expressly for farmers' use. We are informed that his instruments are good, and withal, the cheapest we have ever seen. A good, reliable one will be furnished for $5,—those more perfectly finished are $15.

Mr. J. W. Queen, of Philadelphia, is an extensive dealer in all kinds of Barometers, and can furnish the Aneroid at about $15 or $18. Mr. Queen has also published a very complete little Hand Book of the different kinds of Barometers, giving much useful and interesting information; these are furnished to all who purchase of him, or a copy will be sent on receipt of 25 cents.

Egyptian Wheat.—During the seven years foretold by Joseph in the land of Egypt, "the earth brought forth corn by handfulls." (Gen. xii: 47), "seven ears on one stalk" (ibid, ver. 22). It is not said certainly, that this was wheat; but its description exactly corresponds with the *Triticum Compositum* at present cultivated in that country, and also with the *mummy wheat*, discovered in a sarcophagus in the Egyptian tombs, which had probably lain there for more than 3000 years, but which when planted, vegetated, and has afforded us a new variety of that grain. I have some ears of this now before me, exhibiting the same phenomenon of "seven ears on one stalk." This wheat is made into Colne flour, and the London bakers use to dust the kneading boards. Thus we have the fact distinctly brought before us, that the wheat of that period possessed features in common—allowing for the changes effected by differences of soil, character and cultivation—with that of the present day.—*Exchange.*

ADVICE to YOUNG FARMERS--No. 4.

To improve the aspect and comforts of his home should be one object the young farmer should always have in view. To this end, as fast as may be, he should build out-buildings. One of the first of these should evidently be a *barn*. The old Pennsylvania farmer built his barn before his house. This is the way to thrift and good farming, but not always to comfort and the improvement of the family. We say, a house first and then a barn. A barn for the shelter of stock, the preservation of hay and grain, and farming utensils, should be an object secured as early as possible. It is not expected that the young farmer will be able to build a good barn at once. He must begin with a small one, made on a cheap scale. He must shelter as much of his stock as he can. His tools he must shelter. To leave them exposed to the sun and storms is ruinous. What would be thought of the carpenter who should leave all his tools exposed to the weather? Just as destructive is such treatment to the farmer's tools. The plow should be as well kept as the plane. The wagon, harrow, hoe, axe, chain, the mower, reaper, winnower, and so on, through the whole list, should be carefully secured from the weather. There is nothing more economical than preserving good tools. If they are covered only with slabs and home made shingles, let them be covered. About a barn places may be provided for nearly all farming implements. So as soon as possible let the young farmer have a barn.

A wood house is a most desirable convenience. If the young farmer desires a pleasant wife and domestics, let him have a woodhouse in a convenient place and have it well filled with good, dry wood, well prepared for use. The convenience of good wood in saving time, in cooking well, in giving an air of comfort to the house, is very great. Have a wood-house if it is not larger thah a wagon body or a hen coop. Wood should be prepared in theidle seasons of the year and put in its proper place to dry and be ready for use. Don't attempt to use green wood; have dry always on hand. Don't chop wood every day in the year. To leave the harvest field to chop wood to cook your dinner with is not quite the thing. Nothing looks more slovenly than to see a few sticks of wood scattered about some rods from the house, perhaps over a fence, the whole stock. How pleasant to make a fire from such on a rainy day. Have a woodhouse at all events, and good wood in it.

Then comes, in their order, a milk house, a poultry house and yard, a carriage house, &c. Let the young farmer keep it always in mind that to raise crops and make money is not all he lives for. He has to make a home and rear a family. He must be a man in the world, have a place to receive his friends, and on which to bestow the marks of an intelligent manhood. What adds more to the strength and glory of a country than good farming seats scattered thickly over a country? What reflects more honorably upon the intelligence and taste of a man than a comfortable, well arranged and well-ordered farming home? Lay your plans well young farmers and prosecute them as fast as possible.

HAY.

The farmers of the West must see the importance of the hay crop. It is getting to be one of the most important crops. The hay market is already extensive, and every year growing more so. Every town is a haymarket. The price of hay, this spring, has been unusually high. But there is no danger of its being low. It is bound to stay at high figures. Good hay is sure for the next fifty years to command a high price everywhere in the West. The opening rail roads and the rivers will afford easy facilities for transportation. Bailed hay can be readily transported. Too much attention cannot be well given to the hay crop. Every nook and corner, not otherwise employed should be cleared out and put to grass. Grass should be considered a standard crop on every farm, and should be raised in rotation with others. It is possible that millet may in a few years be raised extensively, to take the place of hay, but hardly probable.

Farmer's who raise much corn may save much of their hay for market, by husbanding well their corn fodder. Many farmers make little or no use of the leaves and stalks of corn. It is a very excellent fodder for home consumption. For milch cows it is especially valuable. It should be one object with every farmer to husband well all his feed, his straw, his corn stalks and whatever will keep well his own stock, so as to send to market as much of his hay and grain as possible. There are many things valuable for feed on a farm that cannot be well marketed. Let none of these be wasted. Look up the odds end ends. Save the littles. Put as much in your stock as possible. Stock is the life of a farm.

Preserving Green Corn for Winter Use.

One of the greatest luxuries of the table, both in Summer and in Winter is the sugar or sweet corn. To our taste, all other varieties of corn to eat green are worthless compared with it. Our method is to keep a constant supply by successive planting, from June to the period of frost. Making the largest planting about the first of July, with an early variety for drying for winter. This matures usually in September, which is the best season for drying. Our method is this: When there is the promise of a fair day, early in the morning the corn is gathered, such only as is well filled; it is then husked and put into boiling water and allowed to remain eight or ten minutes. It is then taken out and immediately cut from the cobs, with a sharp knife, and spread on a clean sheet upon a roof or scaffold, inclining to the south. It should be stirred once or twice during the day, and by night it will become so dry as to be past danger of injury. It should be covered during the night to keep off the dew, and exposed again for two or three days to the sun, when, if the weather is fair, it will usually be perfectly dry and may then be put into a keg and headed tight, or hung up in a firm linen bag for use.

We have recently eaten corn of the common kind, preserved by a new and easier method, which seemed to be as tender, with all the sweetness and freshness of flavor that it had when first gathered, and may answer equally well in preserving the sweet corn, which we regard as the only variety worth preserving.

It is simply gathered and boiled in the usual manner, fit for the table; it is then cut from the cob and packed in a tight keg or jar, (wood is said to be best) in alternate layers of salt, sufficient to preserve it. Some, in the place of salt, apply a strong brine. When wanted for use it is soaked in fair water, which must be changed to remove the excess of salt, and then boiled, adding butter or cream and a little sugar to suit the taste.

Method of Cultivating Crops in California.

The California Farmer, in giving the method practiced by J. A. Hobart, of San Pueblo, in cultivating potatoes, calls the special attention of the farmers of the Atlantic States to it. The plan practiced by Mr. Hobart, is just the one we have always thought we should adopt in California where there are so many months together that it seldom rains. What proves so beneficial in California will scarcely be less so on the Atlantic side of the continent, particularly in dry summers. Mr. Hobart in preparing his ground for potatoes, first run a large turning plow, as deep as it could be made to go; this was followed by the subsoil plow run up to the beam. These were run five separate times so that the soil was moved and perfectly pulverized full two feet deep, throwing it up each time and exposing it to the action of the atmosphere. The result was 200 sacks of 130 pounds, or two and one-sixth bushels of potatoes each, worth from $600 to $700 an acre.

Turnips.

The turnip is a useful crop and one that can be grown at comparatively little cost. Our western climate is not exactly suited to the turnip, it being too warm for most varieties to grow to perfection. The early or quick growing kinds, such as the white and purple top dutch varieties, are the only ones that can be relied on for a crop; these are hardly as nutritious as the Ruta Baga and Swedish varieties, yet they can be grown with much less labor and in almost any quantity upon land that has matured an early crop of potatoes, peas, cabbages, &c., and thus securing two crops in one season from the same land. Land that has become weedy should be cleaned off and plowed early, where it is intended to grow a crop of turnips, because turning under a large amount of vegetable matter frequently results in excessive fermentation and is liable to prevent the germination of the seed, if sown immediately after it is broken up.

From the first to the middle of August is the proper time for sowing the seed and if the season is favorable it will sometimes do to sow even later than this. One pound of seed to the acre is sufficient if sown broadcast, but this should not be done when a suitable drill can be procured for putting in the seed. When drilled the plants stand in rows and admit of an occasional hoeing, which often doubles the amount of the crop, and in unfavorable seasons, this method insures a crop, which if sown so as not to admit of cultivation would prove a failure. When the seed is drilled the rows may be put ten or twelve inches apart, or if land is abundant they may be so wide apart as to allow the narrow cultivator to pass, thus reducing the labor to horse power.

A good crop of turnips, well stored for winter is very important, for cattle, hogs and sheep, not only increasing their growth but greatly promoting their health.

[For the Valley Farmer.]

Amalgamation of Potatoes Again.

Messrs. Editors.—I am an advocate for progression in all things; have been a farmer all my life, and have paid particular attention to vegetables and fruits. I admit much may be learned by reading the works of experienced practical men, but the inexperienced are sometimes sorely cheated from taking everything they see in print for truth. Your journal, I am happy to say, has been much improved since it came into its present hands and I have considered it quite reliable and well timed, but one most egregious error in your June number should not go unnoticed. That is, on the amalgamation of potatoes. It is true, the black tubers in the ground could no more effect white tubers beside them than a black horse would a white one, standing beside each other. But they bloom, and potatoes will no more bear tubers without bloom than will an apple tree bear apples without blooming, and the tuber is formed about the time the bloom is, and that will as surely mix the different kinds, as any of the animal race will mix in colors and natures. The idea, I think, would be beneficial to mix the different varieties where they seem to have deteriorated. Indian corn, of course all know, will mix, but the grain in the ground has no more to do with that than the tuber of the potato, but the bloom has as much in one case as in the other, though the impregnation will not take place at so great a distance in the potato as the corn. The freak of nature in the *Country Gentleman* is simply nature itself, and in accordance with the laws of nature that can not be helped and never will change. Respectfully yours. H.

Remarks.—We give our correspondent a hearing, for we know there are many others like himself who think potatoes will change or mix in the hill, but the cause is entirely mistaken. We have seen several replies from learned men —vegetable physiologists, to the article upon which we made our remarks, all sustaining the same views as expressed by us. There are certain physiological laws as clearly established and as well understood as the law of *gravitation*, or any other known law. The investigation of these laws has occupied the attention of thousands during their lives in other countries, where mammon is not the chief object of pursuit, and if any such connection existed between the blossom and the tuber of the potato it would long since have been recorded.

Our correspondent is also further mistaken when he asserts that "*no potato will bear tubers without blooming.*" We have seen many varieties of potatoes that produced fine crops of tubers, that never opened a blossom. The blossom has but one office to perform, which results in the production of seeds or balls. The mixing of Indian corn is quite another thing. It is the office of the dust from the tassel to impregnate the silk, which is a part of the blossom, and this communicates with the grain. The blossom of the potato has no more to do with the tuber than the corn blossom has with its stem—the tuber, botanically viewed, is not a root but is a peculiar form of the stem.

"H," and the believers in his doctrine must seek some other cause.

CORN PLANTERS.

Editors of the Valley Farmer.—Knowing that you are willing to communicate anything through your columns that will advance or benefit the farmer, I therefore wish to beg space for a few remarks on the subject of Corn Planting Machines. There is no machine in agriculture of more importance than the corn planter. But now the question arises, what kind of a planter shall we use? There have been several different kinds used in this vicinity this spring, and corn planted with them has universally came up better than that planted with hoes or plows, for the reason that it was put in much more uniform. The hand planter is used most here. The most of the horse planters are objectionable on account of their cost, yet under some circumstances they can be used to advantage.

But my object is to find out what kind of a planter is best adapted to the wants of the farmers of Missouri. Now, in order to do this, I propose that $100 be raised as a premium to be awarded to the producer of the best hand planter for every kind of planting, viz: sod ground, stumpy or stony land, and replanting; in short, the one that can be used best under all and every variety of circumstances to which corn planting is subject.

Now I will be one of any number, from two to ten, to raise the $100, each planter to be submitted to actual test by a committee to be chosen by the competitors, with directions to take into consideration the cost, durability, ease of using, and its adaptation to all kinds of soil. Trial to take place at the Saint Louis Agricultural Fair at its next term. All inventors, manufacturers, farmers and others, who feel interested in so important a decision, will please make it known through the *Valley Farmer*, which justly has a very extensive circulation in this and other States, and the time will soon come, when no enterprising farmer can think of doing without it. Any communications in reference to the matter will be thankfully received by D. W. Hughes.

Palmyra, Mo., June 11th.

The suggestions of our correspondent are worthy of consideration. There are trials of Reaping and Mowing Machines, of Plows, &c., &c., why should there not be of Corn Planters? But we would suggest that the spring is a much more favorable season for testing the planters than fall. Let the trial take place next spring upon some extensive farm—a certain number of acres being allotted to each planter.

[For the Valley Farmer.]

OSAGE ORANGE.

To Sleeper & Lindley—*Gentlemen*:—On page 171, you advise seed of Osage Orange used in lieu of plants. Please pardon one who has not the usual prudence for noninterference. You will certainly injure the cause of hedge growing, to the extent of all trial and that influence. Planters will barely take the trouble to nurse the plant, and they will not the seed. Not many who try this mode of hedging will do so again. It is more costly than any fencing I have ever known. You have never tried such a mode, I know, and I am afraid you are not conversant with the business of a farm, (or at least with the ways of farmer's.) I have tried all ways recommended, and many things, and I hope no farmer will attempt this seed sowing in hedge row. You have far more good hard sense about your business than I have, I know, yet the very *Circular—Extra* convinces me of the vast labor. One writer says one-half bushel of seed to the mile, "new ground," "weeds will not be troublesome," "land mellow and fine," "seed carefully and regularly distributed." After doing all this, one had better wait. Some ten or eleven thousand plants will be enough for an acre. One-half bushel of seed ought to give one four times the plants, and if in seed bed will not take one-fourth the mile nor 1-4 the labor.

Prof. Turner is the man. He gives my sentiments. I have myself had to hand, pick and hoe these seedlings in hedge line, and would not inflict the punishment on any energetic, go-ahead man. The Penitentiary is a cake shop in comparison. Sow your seed, friends S. & L., and sell your plants. You can afford to sell them cheaper than farmers can grow them and then make more money than we outsiders at wheat, tobacco, hemp or cotton at the highest figures. Discourage "seed on a line for hedges." Do, if you would save many from sinning.

The above is from an old and experienced friend, and we fully concur in his opinion in regard to planting the seed of the Osage Orange where the hedge is to grow. Not one farmer in one thousand will bestow the necessary care in *planting, thinning* and *cultivating* the seedlings in the hedge row to insure success. And even with all the care that can be taken it is impossible to secure seedling plants in the hedge row, of sufficient *uniformity* of size to make a complete hedge. There will always be some weak plants; these will be overgrown by the stronger ones until the weaker ones die out entirely, leaving open, weak places in the the hedge-row. This method was tried in Jefferson county, Ky., some years ago. We made the same objection to the plan then, which prompted the grower to renewed dilligence in its care, but after six or seven years the hedge was abandoned as a failure, and we were acknowledged to be right in our views.

To secure a good hedge requires care from the planting of the seed, or so long as it is depended on for a fence. Good seedling plants (one years growth) should be set, and these should be assorted of uniform size and vigor and planted together.

The price of a good Osage Orange hedge is *proper care at the proper time.* It will then be cheaper, perhaps, than any other permanent fence. There are but few American farmers who will not neglect them when they require care till the damage is irreparable. The experience of the next ten years will prove this true to many thousands.

Plowing under Timothy Sod.

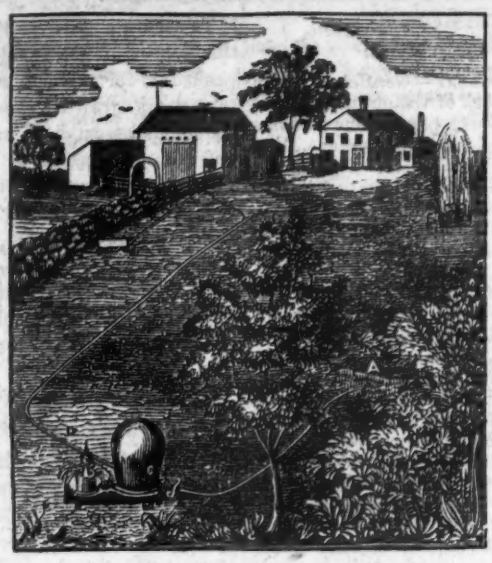
Editors Valley Farmer:—Will it answer to plow up timothy meadow after it has ripened, and sow wheat on the same after it is turned under; whether the wheat will do well, and whether the timothy will come again and do well; and if it will improve the land much or not? My land is getting thin, and I have tried clover on it, but it freezes out. I have also been trying timothy grass, but find it difficult to get it thick enough on thin land. I thought of turning it under as we do clover and sowing wheat upon it, tkinking it would come thicker and improve the land. Yours truly, J. H.

Washington couuty, Mo.

Answer.—If the timothy can be plowed up early enough to allow the sod to partially rot before the wheat is sown, it will answer to follow this course. The best crops of wheat are grown upon clover turned under in this way. To secure a crop of timothy, seed must be sown again. Timothy will not come sufficiently thick, as clover will, from a crop turned under.

If your land is wet, it is probable that the freezing out of the clover is owing to that cause. The proper remedy is, thorough under draining. This often more than doubles the crop and the value of the land. If it is not wet, we presume you pasture too close in the summer and fall. Clover on such land, where the object is the improvement of the soil, should not be cut or pastured at all—or at any rate, after July. Let the last growth of clover lay upon the land for its improvement, and the tops will prevent the roots from being drawn up by the frost.

In sowing timothy, do not fear of putting on too much seed. One bushel to six acres is the least quantity of seed that should be sown.—Many good farmers put double this quantity on their land.



THE WATER RAM.

This is one of the most economical and useful engines that can be employed upon the farm, where a small stream can be had to drive it. It is automatic in its operation, and will run many years with but the trifling expense of an occasional new valve, furnishing an abundant supply of water for the barn, house and garden, and the means for the constant play of a beautiful fuuntain for the lawn.

The Water Ram was invented as early as 1796 by Montgolfier, a Frenchman, who was also the first to ascend in a balloon.

The water ram, though simple, is a curious machine. It is composed of a supply pipe of an inch or two in diameter, an air chamber, two simple valves and a discharge pipe.

A stream of water with a slight elevation, that will fill a pipe 1 1-2 inches in diameter, will force a stream through a half inch pipe to an elevation of eight feet to each foot of fall of the stream in the large pipe.

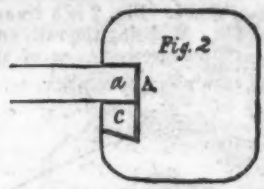
The operation of this engine may be explained by observing that water in motion acquires a momentum in proportion to the length of the colum and the height of the stream or spring, and when in action exerts a force equal to that of a solid body of the same length and weight, passing downwards from the same elevation. Water being a nonelastic substance, it has the property of acquiring motion through the whole length of the tube elevated at one extremity, whenever only a small portion is allowed to escape by its own pressure.

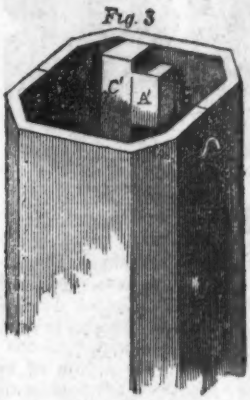
We may illustrate the operation of the water ram by the above engraving. A, is the fountan, with a pipe leading to the ram, C, and from which the pipe may be traced to the building and other points where the water is wanted. When the water is let into the large pipe at A, it descends to the valve seen at the left of the air chamber, C. This valve is made to work neatly, and when there is no pressure of water in the pipe it drops down and is open, but the pressure of the water instantly raises it and closes the aperture. The water in the pipe reacts and forces open another valve at the bottom of the air chamber, C, and a quantity escapes into the small pipe towards the house; as soon as this discharge takes place, the valve closes, and the water again presses with full force and closes the valve at the left; reaction again takes place, and another charge is forced up the small pipe, and thus by constant pulsations the valves alternately work, by action and reaction, forcing up a quantity of water according to the size or power of the stream employed.

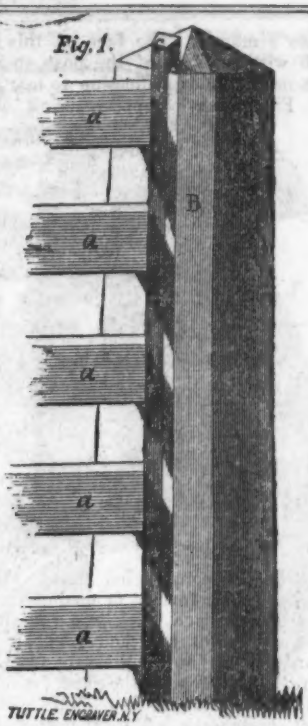
At the right of the engraving will be seen a beautiful fountain in full play, supplied from the spring.

With a small stream of sufficient fall, water may be raised 150 feet, discharging eight or ten hogsheads a day.

While the cultivation of the soil engages your attention, do not neglect the cultivation of your mind.







NEW FENCING MATERIAL.

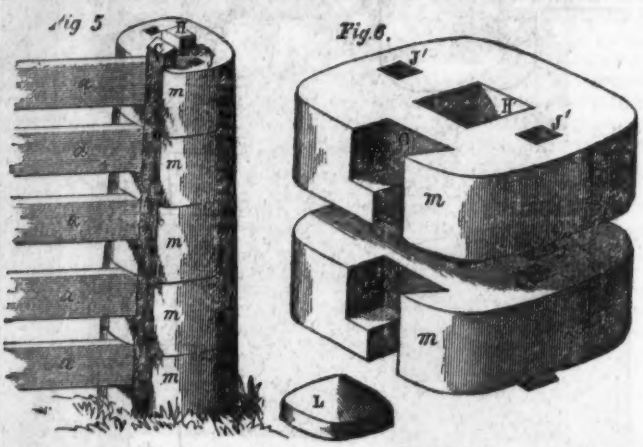
Fencing constitutes one of the chief items of expense of the farm, and in some portions of the prairie country it is very difficult to procure timber. To supply this deficiency various substitutes are employed. In January 1857 a patent was granted to Dr. F. G. Johnson, of Brooklyn, New York, for a new process of forming posts of lime and gravel, and of brick. In every farming district can be found one or the other of these materials. We have recently seen houses composed of gravel and lime and broken stone and lime, that have become almost as solid as stone itself. Posts properly made on either plan proposed by Dr. Johnson, will be both ornamental and durable. The cost will depend on circumstances, according to the convenience of the material employed, &c. The inventor asserts that the posts cost less than those of chesnut, and the rails, which may be sawed, are cheaper than when split in the usual manner.

The *Lime and Gravel, or Concrete Post* is constructed substantially as follows, reference being had to the accompanying drawings:—Provide a case or mold (Fig. 3,) made of boards or plank, open at both ends, somewhat tapering and otherwise shaped as it is desired to shape the post. Divide it, up and down, into two parts, and hold the parts together with hooks. Set the case below the reach of frost, and into it shovel the mixture of mortar of *gravel* and *lime*. Upon two of the opposite sides of the interior of this mold, fasten suitable projections or tenons A', (fig. 3,) to form sockets or mortices A, (fig. 2,) into which the ends of the rails (a a a a) are to be inserted after the post B, (fig. 1,) has *set*, or become sufficiently hardened.

Also fasten in suitable position, upon one side of the interior of this case, an up and down strip or core c', (fig. 3,) made nearly square with the side nearest to the centre of the post widest, or of such shape that it cannot be removed from the post, after it (the post) has *set*, except it be drawn from the top.

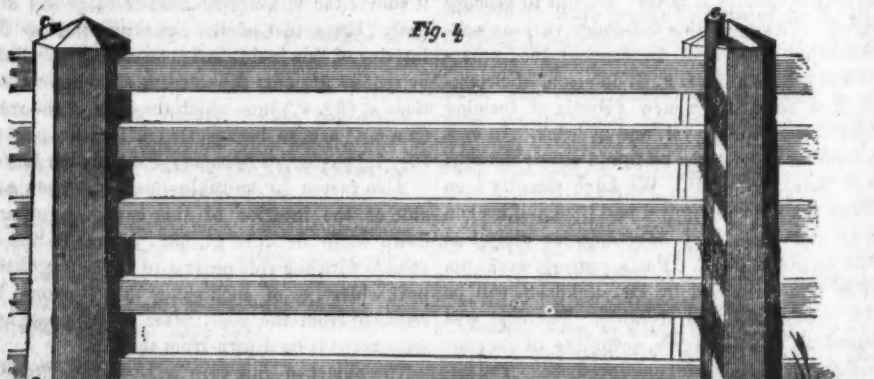
The object of this core is to form or leave a passage down through the post, into which is inserted a strip of wood, c, c, c, (fig. 1, 2 & 3,) which is similar in form and size to the core, and which passes down from rail to rail, and forms one side of each mortise, for the purpose of forming a permanent key or lock to confine the rails in their proper position, after they are once placed in the post, which lock or key at any time may be drawn to remove the rails. (It is not generally necessary to have the key or lock only at one extremity of the rails, the other end of the rails first being inserted into ordinary plain mortises.) When the post is properly *set*, the core c', is drawn from the post,

and the case removed. The face of this key comes flush with the face of the post, so that there is left no crease or projection to mar the symmetry. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a length of fence. Fig. 2 is a transverse section of the post; A, being the rail, and C, the key. Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the post, with the key left a little ways out.



The *Brick Post*, is constructed thus: First, the bricks (fig. 6) are formed or made in such shape and size that each brick will constitute a transverse section of the required post, and be, in thickness, equal to the distance from the top of one rail to the top of the next, (*m m m*, fig. 5.) All the bricks have in one side, a common slot to receive the key C, that holds the rails in place; and also an offset mortise or notch O, (fig. 6,) *from* the key to receive the rails.

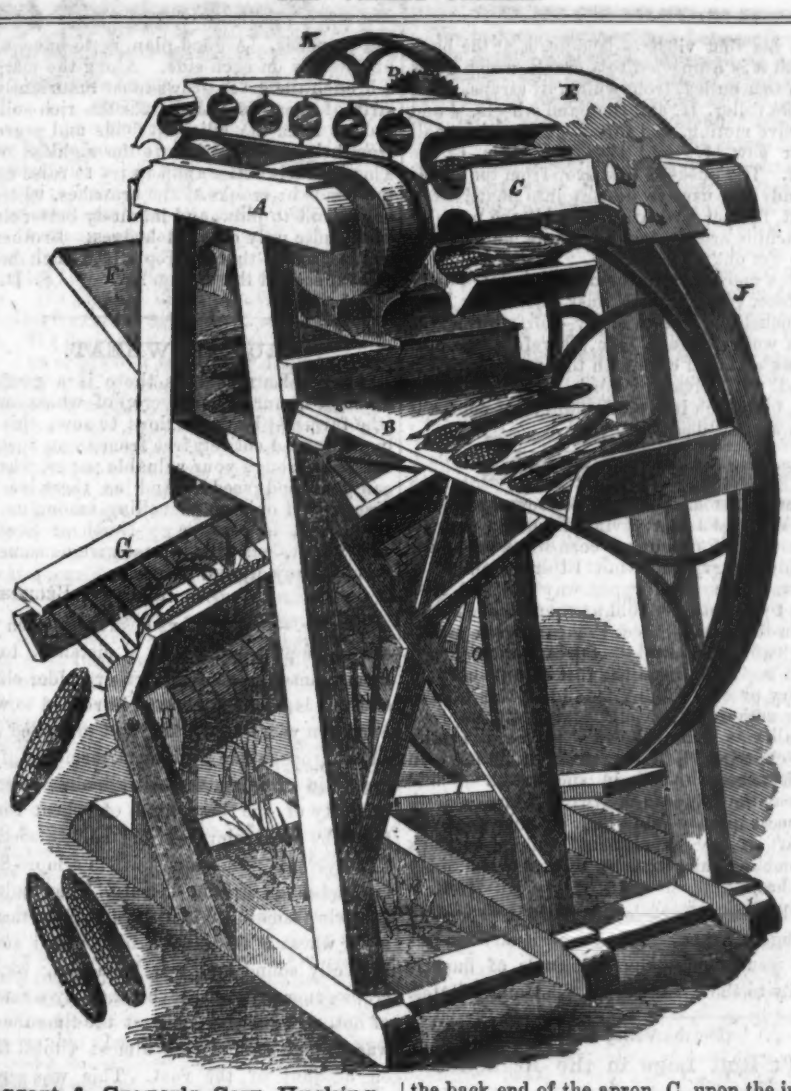
These bricks are to be laid up with a little common mortar between them. To give the post a greater lateral strength, there is provided on the *lower* side of each brick, a pair of tenons, *j'*, *j'*, (fig. 6,) which are dovetail shape, or largest at the end; and on the *upper* side of each brick is made a pair of mortises, *j'*, *j'*, which are larger at the bottom than at the top, and so large at the entrance as to receive the tenons. Now, by filling these mortises with mortar before the tenons enter, the mortar, by hardening, will firmly key or dovetail one brick to another.



To prevent the bricks from cracking while being baked, and as well to give the post greater lateral strength, they are molded with a square hole, H', (fig, 6) of considerable size through the centre; and when the bricks are laid up into a post, this hole is filled with mortar, or with a bar of wood, (H', fig. 5,) similar in size and shape to the cavity formed by the hole in the brick, or it can be left hollow.

To give the post any desired taper, each brick has its proper diameter, and a common slope or taper. Each brick has its number cast on it when molded, and its place in the post thereby designated. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of two of these bricks separate from each other. L, is the *cap* brick that forms the top of the post. Fig. 5 is a brick post all complete, except the cap brick, showing one end of the rails fastened in by the key C.

These bricks are to be made and baked in the brick yards, in the ordinary way. They can be made to order, or kept for sale by such brick makers as may wish to purchase the right to manufacture them.



Taggart & Grover's Corn Husking Machine.

A, is the frame of the machine, and B is a table for holding the ears of unhusked corn, ready to the hand of the operator. C is a revolving endless apron, of adjustable clamps, to receive and hold the ears of corn firmly, to have their butts cut off by a small circular saw, D, to sever the husks where they are attached to the root ends of the cobs. The cut-off stubs of the cobs fall on the inclined board, E, and roll down upon the floor or into a receptacle. The clamps are made of wood, secured on the flexible endless apron, and are so formed that they open out when passing over the end roller where the ears are put in, as shown, and then close as they move along; they are of a round form, to hold the ears firm when passing on a level to the action of the saw, as shown. The ears of corn, after their butts are cut off, drop down at the back end of the apron, C, upon the inclined board, F, thence into an inclined grating, G.—Below the grate there is a revolving roller, H, which has projecting spikes in its periphery. As the ears pass down on the grate, G, the spikes on this roller, projecting between the wires of the grating, catch the husks and strip them off, and the clean ears then drop down as represented, while the husks are carried below the roller. There is a back bar, L, on the frame of the inclined grating, in which are a series of small, strong wire rods, which are inclined and project into the circular grooves on the spike roller. These wires strip the husks from the spikes. The spike roller is revolved by a band and pulley, and so is the saw spindle, and the endless feed table, C. This machine is adapted for being worked by a foot treddle, like a common hand lathe. The operator stands in front of the table, B. and while he feeds the unhusked ears into the clamps of the apron, C, with h

hands, his foot vibrates treddle, I, at the back of which it is connected to a crank, which gives motion to a pulley, from which, by straps, N M, the spike roller, H, and the band wheels, J and K, receive motion, and through them, the small circular saw, D, and the feed table, C, are rotated. The husks as they drop from the spikes are ready for use, to be put into mattresses, without further preparation. All the parts of this machine are strong and simple, and not liable to get out of order.

With a machine like the one represented driven by foot, two men can husk about four hundred bushels of ears in a day—forty bushels is a day's work for one man, therefore two men can husk as much corn with this machine as ten by hand. If driven by horse, water or steam power, for which it is also adapted, of course it will do a great deal more work.

SELECTING SEED CORN.

Messrs. Editors:—I have seen several articles in the Valley Farmer giving directions for the best method of procuring corn for seed which I considered very good but I think from practical experience the proper way to select seed corn is to go into the field as soon as the sap is dried in the cob. Select the ears from stalks having two ears. Pull the top ear which should be kept separate from the rest of the corn in some dry place. I think by adding this plan to the one suggested it would materially improve the quality as well as the yield per acre. I write as one experienced having tried it on my own farm for several years in succession. I find each year that my corn is greatly improved both as respects quality and yield. I only send you this part of my experiment thinking perhaps that some one has tried it more satisfactorily than I have. M. H. R.

Mr. Reid is correct in his views in regard to selecting seed corn. This course invariable followed would add many thousands of bushels annually to the corn crop of the United States.

(For the Valley Farmer.)

Don't Roll Logs in the Branches.

There is a slovenish practice among farmers, and some pretty good ones, of putting logs, brush, stumps, &c., into the nearest branch or gully in the field. Sometimes they are put into the fence corners. Now I protest against anything of the kind. They are an abomination to a real neat farmer. If you cannot find time to burn them, as they should be, then you had better make them into piles, or heaps in the field, and plow round them; for after a while you will get tired of going around them so often and will set them a fire. Better dig pits like the Florida man, and bury them.

Some men suffer bushes, briers and weeds to grow along the branches and thus form a crooked, horrible looking hedge, a fit harbor for snakes, frogs, minks and other *varmints*. Clean out those places when you are tending your crops or after harvest.

Instead of letting the bushes grow up along the branches. A good plan is to have a strip of meadow on each side. Along the margin of a branch the grass grows most luxuriantly. A strip of meadow will catch the rich soil that washes from the adjacent fields and prevent it from being entirely lost to the rightful owner. This is much better than to try to raise corn in the bends or crooks of the branches, where it is so difficult to plow, and infinitely better than to have those ugly crooked hedges. Brother farmers, I move that we repudiate such hedges. Who'll second the motion? S. D. C.

SMUT IN WHEAT.

Messrs. Editors:—As there is a good deal of Smut in our growing crop of wheat, and we (the farmers) being anxious to sow, this coming fall, seed entirely free from smut, rust, &c., ask you through your valuable paper, where we can get good seed? And as there is a great diversity of opinion prevailing among us, as to whether it is best to go North or South for seed wheat, will you please give us some light upon the suject, and oblige

A Young Beginner?

Answer.—It is always desirable, when seeds are to be procured from a distance, to have them from a more Northern or colder climate, and this is particularly true in regard to wheat. Some ten years ago, when rust prevailed in our wheat crops, some gentlemen, members of Congress, in crossing the Alleghanies, selected a quantity of the best kind of wheat for seed from the most elevated and coldest section of Pennsylvania; this was sown in a more Southern and much warmer climate. The result was, the wheat matured ten days earlier than the other wheat in the same neighborhood and was perfectly sound and free from rust; while the crops generally, were overtaken by a few days of hot, wet weather, just at the time the grain was filling, and proved almost a total failure on account of the rust. This was repeated several years with similar results. But this, in the case of our correspondent, we think is hardly necessary. We would advise to select at home, some of the most productive and best kinds of wheat for seed, and soak it for a few hours in a solution of blue vitriol, taking care to skim off all the light and smutty grains, cheat, &c., and then dry it by rolling it in dry air-slaked lime. This has been found an effectual remedy against smut. Strong brine and the application of lime may have the same effect.

If seed is to be procured from abroad, we should prefer it from Canada or the mountain districts of Pennsylvania. Canada wheat can be had in any of the milling cities near Lake Ontario, N. Y.

Stock Raising Department.

(Written for the Valley Farmer.)

THE DAIRY.

BY HETTIE HAYFIELD.

There is an almost irresistable temptation when one writes with a printing press in the prospective, to give currency to novelties, by way of showing intelligence or originality. Hence the value of many substantially good articles in practical journals, is impaired by the grafting-on of untested theories, to systems of experienced utility. We premise this, because being counsellor elect for the current year to young farmer's wives. We deprecate the censure that may fall on us if no originality marks any division of the subject for this month. We do not undertake to originate a method, but to endorse what we propose, as tested, and as a method that will answer to pursue, while the enterprising young housekeeper, proceeds from papers, books, notable neighbors and experience, to construct a more valuable system. Subjects for mental contemplation, as well as natural objects loom up in size by nearness. Thus one by one as the different departments of housekeeping come up before us in review, each seems of most importance, though reflection convinces us that they have a comparative value. The importance of the dairy on the farm however, hardly loses by comparison with any other branch of domestic business. Without pausing to estimate the value of the cow, every particle of whose organized body can be made useful after death, her value as the support of the dairy alone, renders her worth incalculable because indispensable.

Milk is the only food which infancy, deprived of its human resource, can assimilate to its system and thrive. It is the best animal food for all periods of life, and to take away from our tables, cheese, butter and cream, which enter so intimately and freely into all our daily food, would be to reduce us to the much lauded, but carefully avoided simplicity of primitive times. It needs but a short sojourn in the sunny South with all its wealth of vegetables and fruits, to satisfy us that the want of fresh butter and sweet cream, must force them to yield a superiority in the arts of the table to the dairy regions of the West and North.

COW HOUSE.

A shelter is almost indispensible. A shed close against the north and prevailing winds will do. The floor of plank or tough clay, rolled firm and smooth, or of plank and sloping back very gently for drainage. The shed divided securely into stalls, and each stall furnished with a trough large enough to feed slop and chop without waste. Place a rack above the stalls for hay, and it is good to have a hay loft above the shed. The cow should be secured by a door behind, or by a halter or bow. The stable should be littered every evening with straw, chaff, sawdust or leaves, which must be removed in the morning to the compost heap. If a close stable is used, have it ventilated without placing cows in the full draft.

COWS AND THE KEEPING OF THEM.

We make no comparisons between long and short horns, Alderneys, Ayreshires, &c., &c. We meekly say, make the best of whatever cow the "lord of the Manor" provides. But woe is you! if he is a breeder of blooded stock, and expects you to supply from the calves leavings a family as numerous as his patriarchal prototype, Abraham. We hope your mother christened you Patience, and that you have absorbed the spirit of your cognomen. But if he, like many "gude men" of the West, leaves you a Selkirk of the dairy and its domain, take no heed to herd books, or whether your cow has horns, hoofs or hide, so that she fills a capacious bucket and ample butter tub. If your home herd does not afford the cow you want, learn by advertisement or enquiry where she is to be had, (being near home if possible.) Send your dairyman to see her about the witching hour of milking, or rent her for a month, and if she satisfies you, give a liberal price without grudging; and keep, oh! keep her well. Remember, a poor cow consumes as much food and requires as much care as the best of the species. A cow is in her prime with her second calf, and will milk ten years after that. An average cow gives three gallons of milk a day—with good management she will often give four. I have known several to yield six and seven gallons when kept faultlessly and milked three times daily. Cows must be fed more discriminatingly than beef stock. Rye, cabbage, parsnips, or any green food, or roots of peculiar taste will communicate their flavor to the milk. Blue grass is unexceptionable; the aftermath of meadows and the crop grass that springs up in the fields voluntarily is fine. For winter every good farmer should reserve some grass or provide a field with special reference to his dairy, if he does not grow small grain, or objects to pasturing it. Green food cannot be dispensed with if rich looking, well flavored butter is expected.

Meal, crushed corn, apples, pumpkins, any roots without disagreeable flavor, may be fed to milch cows. Cooking food is economical. It should not be given hot enough to injure the creatures teeth. Cows should be fed regularly, not in excess; observation will soon govern the quantity. They should have free access to water, have salt daily or frequently, and when stabled, should be curried and allowed exercise. In summer, stabling may be disused, in which case a grass paddock convenient, will afford night browsing and increase the milk.

MILKING

Should be done kindly, regularly and with perfect neatness. If possible milk at some place and hour every day, giving your cow if used to feeding a mouthfull of something to keep her quiet. A considerable increase of milk may be had by milking three times a day while cows and grass are both fresh. But this necessity is obviated by milking about twelve hours apart. The yield of morning and evening will then be equal, and it will prove quite convenient where the cook or housemaid takes part in milking, as their service in the cow pen will be over before

their house duties for evening come on. When this plan is pursued the night paddock must be had to save waste of time in going back and forth to distant pastures.

Some persons take the calves from their mothers from the first, or soon as the milk becomes fit for daily use. We prefer having the calves to suck, parting them from the dam soon as her udder seems free from swelling. A little favor at first, with good grass and water makes the calves into respectable beeves, and they repay your humanity by luring the mother's home without trouble. Give them first access to the cow, as the last milk is the richest, and when winter comes on, if your pen is too full to stable all your cows, have the calves of the supernumeraries still suckled—it prevents your cow from the bad habit of drying up too soon and gives you a chance, sometimes, to reclaim to use a good cow when your favorites fail. This hint is for management of dairy stock. Of course, raisers of blooded stock would not permit such a drain on cows expected to keep up their herds.

THE DAIRY.

The rich, in this, as well as in other things, may raise on the useful, ornamental additions, and we commend the outly, but all that is really necessary to success can be had in several cheap plans. A clean, cool, dark place, capable of being lighted, a dairy must be. When extensive operations are intended there should be two rooms, one for the furniture and for the work to be done in, the other for the milk, butter, &c., &c., and in no case should meat, vegetables, or any decaying substances be kept in the milk room. A dairy should have a stone or brick floor, and a double ceiling filled in with tan bark, or be covered with earth and sod.—Around should be paved and planted with good shade trees. The door should ordinarily face the north and the ventilators or windows be covered with very fine wire net, to prevent the ingress of rats and insects. Dairies of all kinds are best plastered with hydraulic cement. Where you can have a running spring pass over the floor, your dairy work is secure in having a right temperature provided by nature for summer use. An excellent dairy can be made as a basement to an ice house, or preferably, beside it. In the last case the drippings from the ice being conducted into a trough in which the milk can set, the dairy may be perfectly dry. Light, (except when necessary for work) should be carefully excluded; it is as active an agent as air in promoting the decomposition of animal substances.

Chests made double and filled in between with charcoal or tan bark, are good contrivances to keep milk in a small way. Of course there should be ice on the top grating in summer, and in winter these boxes will be usefully secure against freezing. The temperature of a dairy should be about 50°, and should never exceed 60°.

DAIRY FURNITURE.

A table on which to set vessels while working and a chair beside it, as weariness in the labor secures no especial merit to the product. Buckets and large, wide cups for the milking; a sufficient number of vessels to let the milk stand in 24 hours, and as many more to take benefit of sun and air before their turn. As cream and buttermilk crocks need the same favor, there should be two of each to alternate in service. This is necessary if tin, pewter or common stone ware is used. Glass or china are ready for use so soon as cleansed. A butter ladle, bowl and paddle, of flavorless, hard, smooth wood. A fine wire strainer, a skimmering ladle and a perforated skimmer for taking off cream separate from milk when desired.—Vessels for warm and cold water, and a small portable furnace is a convenience. Cheap china butter crocks and firkins of sweet wood; a salt box, soap cup, and a good supply of coarse towels, are all neccssaries for a dairy, with the last but not least important item, a churn. A churn of any pattern will bring butter with sufficient agitation if the cream is at proper temperature. We discarded the old perpendicular staff churn, because unhandy, laborious and apt to admit improper substances through the aperture in the top. Any churn that moves by a crank is an improvement, and equally good so far as labor and results go, but we prefer the thermometer churn, as the vessel containing the cream lies in a trough in which cold or hot water may be used to regulate the temperature of the cream.

If cheese making is practised, a cheese press, hoops, curd kettle, curd basket, curd tray and slicer, rennet bottle, box of cheese varnish, and abundance of stout cheese cloths are necessary.

MILK

Should be strained before the cream begins to rise, into vessels that have been scalded, and in summer rinsed in cold water. If milk is kept at proper temperature, cream will rise to the surface of any vessel, but sooner in shallow pans. Skim milk is not a presentable article on a well-to-do farmer's table. For table use it should be strained into covered pitchers or bottles. Milk will yield up all its cream in from 24 to 30 hours. Cream should be gathered in a a jar for churning and stirred up night and morning. If you have occasion to save sweet cream, keep it in a freezer as if preparing ice cream. It will change very soon when taken out for use. Clabber for the table should be strained into a bowl and after coagulating set on the ice until required for use.

Directions for curds will be found under cheese. They should be drained, broken fine, kept on ice and severed with loaf sugar, nut meg and cream.

BUTTER MILK

Is best of cream soured and moderately thick. If water has been poured into the churning, it will rise to the top after a few hours and can be poured off Indeed an excellent milk managing neighbor, who cannot churn often, pours a pitcher of water into her buttermilk every morning, stirs it well and pours it off at dinner—she says it keeps it fresh all the time. Clabber, surplus butter milk or sour skim milk, heated until it curds, makes good chicken feed.

BUTTER.

Numbers of reliable experiments have proved that butter made from sour cream is equal to any in flavor, and is the most economical use of the milk all in all. Sweet cream produces fine butter, but inferior butter milk. Milk will produce butter (without waiting to separate the cream) in small quantity and poor buttermilk. Scalding the milk, according to a current theory, with us made no perceptible increase of butter and impaired the flavor of the milk. The churn should be scalded, the milk poured in and if as warm as when fresh from the cow it is right. (55° by the thermometer.) Churn rapidly in cold weather and moderately in warm. A few minutes work will bring the butter.

When the butter is carefully gathered, draw off the milk, pour in a bucket of fresh water, churn briskly, pour off the water and repeat the operation until the butter is free from milk.—(We repudiate the Holstein system of unwashed butter and hand manipulations.) Allow 1 oz. of fine salt to the pound of butter. Work it with a paddle thoroughly, and run a fork thro' it, lest a hair should have strayed through the sive. Set it away until it gets firm, then repeat the operation. When sure the water is out, set on a perforated dish to drain, after you have moulded it. The next day put it in your butter crock, in a cool, dark place, or wrap in cloth and put in pickle, or beat it down into your firkins, if for winter use.

BUTTER PICKLE.

1 gallon of water, 1 lb. fine salt, 1 oz. saltpetre, 2 oz. loaf sugar, boiled and skimmed clear. Pour on cold and keep two inches above the top of the butter.

CLARIFIED BUTTER.

Put any quantity of butter in a preserving kettle; boil it ten minutes; set it off, and when cold it will be a clear cake. Cut it out, scrape off the caseous sediment, return it to the kettle, and at boiling heat, seal it up in cans as you would fruit. Inferior, but useful in scarce times.

The receipts for restoring rancid butter by chlorine, charcoal, &c., &c., we have found a failure.

CHEESE.

The common, and to my notion, unpalatable and indigestible country cheese, which is, nevertheless, both popular and saleable, is as easily made as butter and more remunerative.—But good cheese is a tedious, particular and rather a laborious business, as taught me by the very pattern like, and pleasant friends of a Shaker village. Skimmed milk alone does not make eatable cheese. Half the milk skimmed is poor. Milk fresh from the cow is the right article. It should be strained into a kettle and brought to a heat of 85°. Three quarts of milk is allowed to a pound of cheese. One tea cup full of strong rennet water will turn 12 gallons of milk. (Too much rennet or heat makes tough cheese.) Cover the kettle; in about half an hour the curd should be formed. When it begins to sink, cut it in small squares with a slicer. Cover it with a thin linen cloth, and dip off the whey very gently. When you have dipped the last spoonful to be had by tender handling, spread a cloth in your curd basket (made with slits, wide apart,) put the curd in it; set it to drain, with a light weight pressing on it. When it seems dry, spread a cheese cloth in your hoop; break up the curd into it, fold the ends of your cloth over it, put in a follower that fits exactly and press. (We prefer the lever, to the screw press.) After an hours moderate, but continually and slowly increased pressure, take it out. Break it up in fine crumbs, and stir in it enough fresh water to cover it well. Let it stand a quarter of an hour; drain it well, then salt it to your taste and return it to the hoop with a fresh cloth. Press it all day in the above described way. At night take it out, pare off any uneven edges, return it to the press until another morning, or better, for another 24 hours. When made wet it over with cheese varnish. Lay on a cool shelf and for two weeks varnish every morning, and the rubbing and turning over keep up for a month.

Sage cheese is made as above, by mixing sage and spinach juice in the milk. Stilton cheese, has equal parts of sweet cream and fresh milk, requires very tender handling and to be kept in boxes (while drying) without bottom or top. Curds are made of fresh milk, as for cheese, or by pouring buttermilk into fresh milk and heating until it forms. Buttermilk, poured into the whey, saved from cheese while scalding hot, will produce a quantity of rich curds, which may be used for the table or cheese cakes.

RENNET.

A piece the size of a dollar of strong rennet soaked 24 hours in a tea cup of water will turn 10 gallons of milk.

CHEESE VARNISH.

1 part beeswax, 3 parts fresh butter, melted, and seasoned strongly with cayenne pepper.

COLORING FOR CHEESE.

Annatto squeezed through a cloth until the color suits you.

MURRAIN IN CATTLE.

This disease has become very prevalent in some parts of the European continent. The British government have published an order prohibiting the importation of cattle, or hoofs, or horns, or hides from those teritories of Russia, Prussia or Mecklenburg, which lie on the gulf of Finland, or between the Gulf and the city of Lubeck, with the hope to exclude this serious malady, and its consequence among the herds of the country. The governments of France and Russia and some of the smaller German States have also established similar regulations. In view of the ravages of this disease, the British papers are also advising increased attention to stock, to keep it in a healthy state, and render it less liable to the disease. It is also suggested that lack of proper food, ventillation and cleanliness, would have a tendency to encourage the fearful epidemic.

POINTS OF A HORSE.

[For the Valley Farmer.]

Care of Cows at the time of Calving.

No disease with which I have had to contend in stock growing, has proved so fatal as that with which cows are sometimes attacked, having its commencement at the time of bringing forth their calves, or occurring within a few days thereafter. Cows of the finest milking qualities are most liable to the disease. It is caused from an undue excitement of the lacteal and secretory glands of the udder, inducing a morbid action of the whole system, and, unless arrested, producing death in a short time. I have no confidence in any remedy for the disease, except in its incipient state, but I think it may be prevented, and to this end, I shall mainly submit a few thoughts. I have never known a cow attacked by the disease, except in warm weather, and when she had access to green food. I would infer, therefore, that the cow should be placed in a shady lot with a plenty of water, and having access to very little green food, so as to prevent that excessive accumulation of milk, which would result from a plentiful supply of green food, and by this means avoid one of the most fruitful sources of the disease. But shade to protect from the heat of the sun, and water to allay thirst are important, at the time of bringing forth the calf.—Should she seem distressed with heat, cold water applied freely across the loins, and upon the back, will tend to brace up the system, overcome the heat and exhaustion and exert a most healthful influence. As soon as possible after the calf is dropped, upon its first efforts to suck, take advantage of the disposition of the dam to give down her milk, extract all the milk from the bag except a scanty supply for the calf, keep it hungry for a few days, aid the calf by extracting the milk carefully, and no danger of the disease is to be feared. W. H. CAMPBELL.

Garrard Co., Ky., May 15th, 1857.

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

GOOD vs. BAD HOGS.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Your correspondent on page 183, gives a good description of a good hog, and closes by equally good advice—"If you can come across such hogs get them and try them."

I would ask of him or you, Messrs. Editors, to tell your readers where such hogs can be found, and the price. "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet," "Nothing in a name," are aphorisms, truths and true, yet I must confess I take more pleasure in a rose when I know its name, and would also in the hog, if I knew its peculiar ancestors or the cross used to make it. I have been at much expense in endeavoring to procure "THE hog," and have now several varieties, but as yet have not "THE hog." We want a hog that on good keep will weigh 250 pounds at twelve months,—I mean farmers need such. I have no doubt but I could push my stock to 250 pounds, but it costs too much. Corn at 60 cents per bushel, if fed freely, will make 250 pounds cost about $25.—Pretty high eating. At this time (June 11), I am feeding but little corn—not one-half bushel to 150 head,—whereas, were I pushing my stock, this feed would not do for 10 head of hogs; this, of course, would feed more pigs of three to six months. I want the best hogs and am willing to buy even at $50 the pair, though I am averse to paying $25 for second rate. I can myself spare second rate at $25.

Please, some or many, give to the distant readers of this very excellent paper all the information desirable as to the above, and much oblige one who is now grateful—the "Valley Farmer" being sent gratis by the kind Eds.

Yours, P.

KINDNESS TO ANIMALS.

We have much to say in this Department of the Farmer, upon the qalities, breeds, characteristics, and treatment of stock. In this article we wish to speak especially of kindness to domestic animals. Humanity alone would seem to urge a sufficient plea for the animals we rear. But this does not always secure to our domestic herds the kindly treatment they should have at our hands. Men of humane feelings often abuse animals with whip and cudgel, with hunger cold and neglect. Working animals are often abused with overwork, galled with bad yokes and harness, with the oft repeated stroke of the lash till they seem almost indifferent to the pain of blows and galls. A good old friend of ours who has been a successful farmer for nearly forty years, gives it as his opinion that men commit more sin in the sight of God in the abuse of animals than in all other ways put together. See the jaded horses, the stiffened and worn out oxen, the poor scrawny cows, the starved hogs all over the country. Somebody has abused them. See the great whips, spurs and other instruments of torture every where in use. With good feed and kind treatment these are never needed in working animals. They are simply instruments of torture. They are evidences of a prevailing inhumanity to animals. Many people whip animals as a matter of course, because they have always seen them whipped. If they drive often, they go whip, whip, whipping along as though the poor creatures' hides were already tanned into sole leather, and they do it more than half from habit. If they drive horses they whip them brutally every time they commit any little offense, just as though they must.—They do not mean to be inhuman, but they do it from a perverse habit. Now this whole whipping and cudgeling process is calculated to beat the life out of oxen and spoil the disposition of horses. I know of no more effectual way to spoil both horses and oxen than to whip them much. One hard whipping is worse than a whole week's work, in its wear and tear on an animal. We have seldom seen an animal in good plight that is whipped much. Every man who keeps working animals has to pay for the whipping in the extra amount of feed it requires to keep them, as well as in the bad work they do, and in the time lost and strength wasted in the process.

We would not discard the whip altogether; sometimes it is best to use it, and use it thoroughly; but not often—not as a daily habit. We know, from much experience with working animals, that the whip is seldom needed. The most of horses never need it. The colt may be broken to work better without the whip than with it. The great majority of the bad habits of horses are acquired by being whipped. The great majority of dull and disobedient oxen are made so by the crack and fall of the whip. The spirit of both horses and oxen are broken down by the whip. It is a positive injury to the strength and disposition of animals to whip them. The best whip is good feed. Work with animals must become a habit. Begin with a little; increase as the habit becomes fixed.—First they must get used to the yoke and harness; then get used to being guided; then used to work. The whole process to be well done must be the process of forming habits in the animals. Any attempt to hasten the end by whipping is only to thwart the object. Animals take on habits very readily if kindly treated. "The merciful man is merciful to his beast."

Teaching Language to Animals.

Working animals have to be taught the language of their work. And as they are not very swift learners of language, it requires not a little patience to teach them the words they must understand. The principal words they have to learn are those which bid them go ahead, moderately, at a good speed, rapidly, to turn to the right and left, to draw gently or with all their might, to back and hold back, &c. These various words with their modifications, constitute quite a language for dumb animals to learn. Many men in teaching young animals to work, don't seem to realize that it takes them a long time to learn the language of work, and hence do not have the patience they ought with them. The most successful teachers of animals have great patience, and teach always by the same principles, using always the same word or sign for the same thing. Our domestic animals may be taught all the language they need to know, if we will patiently persevere in any systematic course with them. Our horses and oxen might be much more agreeably and usefully worked, if we would teach them more of the language of their work, and rely more upon language and less upon means of force. They will acquire by habitual use the meaning of many words. The safest and pleasantest animals to work are those that are well taught the language of their work. With them the word of

their driver is more effectual than his whip. In teaching animals the language of their work, a uniform system, and perseverance therein, are the important things. In doing this it is quite unnecessary to speak in a loud boisterous tone of voice. They hear readily, and an ordinary conversational tone is much the best. If you begin by bellowing you must always do so. Nor is it best to talk too much to animals. Say what you mean and that is enough. Much talking to them is like much whipping. It soon becomes an old story. Let your words be few and right to the point, plainly and earnestly spoken.

(Written for the Valley Farmer.)

Improvement of Domestic Animals.

It is a remarkable fact, that two-thirds, if not more of the domestic animals of the United States, are of an inferior quality—usually denominated "scrub," or "common breed:" which have, in many instances, degenerated into their present poor type through the neglect and carelessness of a majority of stock raisers, who have successively continued to permit their animals to grow up without protection from the bleak winter's blast—without a sufficiency of food, or any of the requisitions to the full development of their animals.

By this course of proceedure a great portion of the domestic animals of this country are degenerated and kept in degeneracy. I have noticed of late, in traveling through different portions of the United States, that the common unimproved breeds of animals seem to be universally scattered over every portion of the Union, to a greater or less extent, though not so prevalent in the older and more settled States of the North and East as in the partially settled States of the South and West. But I regret to see so large a proportion of our animals of an inferior quality—of a poor, degenerate nature, of a defective, undeveloped type, when it is of so much more advantage and profit to the individual stock raiser, as well as universally beneficial to the whole country, to raise superior stock. Is it any easier or less expensive to raise a trifling animal, than it is to raise a first class blooded animal? Does an animal of improved stock eat more or occupy a larger lot or stable, than a poor class animal? I am certain not. I think it is often the case that poor animals require more food than good animals. But, objects one, "these improved animals require more care and attention than the 'scrub stock,' therefore we that have but poor facilities and little time for paying attention to the rearing of stock, must continue to raise the same old unimproved animals; because they are more hardy, require less attention and do not cost as much should we have to buy." But I disagree with this opinion. I do not think that inferior animals are any more hardy than superior animals; and if good animals do require more attention than poor ones, will they not render more service or bring a much higher price when sold—more than remunerating the raiser for the extra trouble? These things being true, what excuse can a farmer give for keeping and raising inferior, unimproved stock?

Farmers, look to your interests, and raise good animals, if you would profit by raising.

M. W. Adcock.

Remedy for Colic in Horses.—One of our readers says that a pint of salt dissolved in a pint of hot water, and a quart of vinegar then added, and about half the quantity given, will cure the most inveterate case of colic. Should not the first dose effect a cure let the remaining half be given and the cure will be certain. He says he has seen this remedy trid in a number of cases and always with success.

Prolific Sheep.—J. Forsyth, of Hannibal, N. Y., writes that last Spring he had ten ewes which produced nineteen lambs. This Spring only two of his ewes have lambs as yet, one of them two and the other *four*.

A friend of ours told us a day or two since of a gentleman of Southern Mo., a German, who brought six ewes from Japan, a year or two since of very remarkable size. When he saw them the six had thirty lams. Such sheep must be worth having.

MAD ITCH---BLOODY MURRAIN.

Messrs Editors—I desire, through the medium of your valuable paper, to enquire of some of your subscribers who have a knowledge of the disease, the cause of the mad-itch in cattle, and after defining the cause, give us a cure.

Two of my cows took the disease a short time ago, and died in about 18 hours. My cattle are all in fine order, being fed regularly twice a day on corn and fodder, and I watered them every few days through the winter.

I will here give you a receipe for the cure of Bloody Murrain in cattle, which I have never seen in print, but nevertheless it is good if given in time.

Give from 100 to 150 grains Calomel (according to the age of the animal) dissolved in a pint of lard.

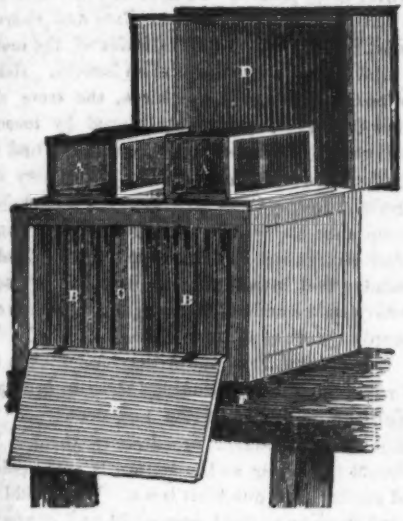
As the Bloody Murrain is generally considered incurable, to try this would do no harm.

Yours Truly

Jo. D. Edwards.

Saline Co., Mo., Feb. 5th, '57.

The Apiary.



Kelsey's Moveable Comb Bee-Hive.

Mr. Editor.—Permit me through the columns of your excellent paper to call the attention of the agricultural part of your readers, to a new and valuable patent. A patent has recently been obtained by Albert Kelsey, of Jackson Co., in this State, for a *Bee Hive* combining and embracing the following advantages:

1st. The bees are easily hived.

2nd. The honey can at all times be taken, when it can be spared by the bees, from any part of the hive without disturbing the bees in their operations.

3d. The hive is so arranged that the comb is made in moveable frames, so that one or more frames can be removed at pleasure and others inserted in their place.

4th. The brood comb can be taken from this hive before it is hatched and placed in another hive, where a new swarm will be brought forth.

5th. This hive has the advantage over all others, of protecting the bees entirely from the moth—is very simple in its construction, easily made—can be placed any where, either in the house, yard or garden, taking up but little room, and can be managed by a child five years old.

This Bee Hive is on sale and exhibition at No. 8 North Second street, where the public are invited to call and examine it. For sale by counties, States, or the single hive.

Farmer.

St. Louis, June 22.

(For the Valley Farmer.)

Roofs and Stands for Bee Hives.

By M. Quinby, Author of

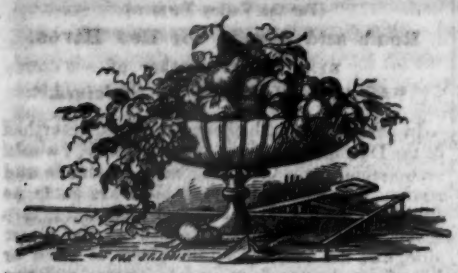
"Mysteries of Bee Keeping Explained."

In connection with cheap bee-hives, described in the December number of the *Farmer*, I would recommend a cheap arrangement of stands and roofs. The stands for such hives are made as follows. Inch boards two feet long and fifteen inches wide are planed smooth on the upper side, and the ends nailed on pieces of wood or joist from two to four inches square and put directly on the ground, with the hive on the back end. The projection in front forms a convenient alighting board for the heavily loaded bees when approaching the hive, towards a chilly evening; not one can fall under the bottom and get benumbed till unable to use its wings to reach the hive, and perish, as they often do when the hive is on a shelf. Many bees are thus saved by creeping to the hive—enough at least to balance any trouble of keeping down weeds, grass, &c. A roof eighteen by twenty-four inches square, is made by two boards nailed together like the roof of a house and laid on the top loosely. In hot weather it can be drawn over to shade the hive during the hottest part of the day. In spring or cool weather it can be slipped back, allowing the sun to strike the hive—an accommodation not to be had with a bee hive. Another advantage with this arrangement is, the stands can be at any distance apart, the farther the better, say four or six feet, when not limited for room, but no circumstances ought to dictate less than two feet space between stands, even then the exterior of each hive should be varied in color, if nothing else. As bees return to their own hive only by their knowledge of its external appearance, they are liable to mistakes when there is too much similarity, especially the young queens, and wherever a queen makes such mistakes, the result is not only fatal to herself, but to the colony also—much loss may be prevented by attention to this matter.

Aside from the extra cost of construction, bee houses are objectionable as preventing a free circulation of air, causing combs to melt down in weather that an airy situation would prevent. There is no convenience to regulate the shades about the hive, allowing us to alternate shade and sunshine as circumstances require; and more than all there are but few persons, when roof and floor are once erected, who can resist the temptation to crowd the hives too closely—very often the inches that separate them ought to be feet.

If it is wished to make the Apiary ornamental as well as useful, the stands can still be separate; for the sake of show, they can be raised one or two feet, but in that case a board should always reach the ground at the sides and front, for the convenience of bees when chilled.

In painting hives, a uniform color should be avoided, not that it would be in bad taste, but on account of the effect on the bees. The different shades in the apiary should be alternate—the light colors are probably best.



Horticultural Department.

FRUITS AND BIRDS.

In every community there is a growing interest in fruits. They are beginning to be regarded as one of the essentials of a proper diet. They will soon hold an equal rank with bread and vegetables. And while there is a growing interest in fruits there is an increasing variety being introduced into our gardens, nurseries and orchards. This is well, for it increases the chances of a full supply, prolongs the season for fresh fruit and adds variety which is always pleasing and healthful.

There can be no doubt but health is greatly promoted by a free use of fruits with every meal. Indeed fruit should be a part of every meal. If meats should decrease and fruits increase it would be advantageous to health. We eat too much solid, too much concentrated food. We overtax the digestive powers. We overwork the stomach. A generous supply of fruit with our food would greatly relieve the over-burdened organism.

But we are forgetting the point we intended to present in this article. It is this, how shall we contend with and overcome the great enemies of fruit, we mean insects? There are various insects that always threaten the destruction of fruits and fruit trees. And they seem to be increasing. They already render very uncertain many kinds of fruit. How shall they be kept at bay? It is altogether probable that many answers should be given to this question as a part of the general answer. But we have one to which we wish to call particular attention just now. The natural enemy of insects is *birds*. Insects are the food of birds, provided by the great Hand that supplies the wants of every creature. They grow on every tree, shrub, plant, in every pool, swamp, soil. They swarm in the air, nestle in the flowers, revel in the dirt. Everywhere they come into bearing in teeming millions. Many of them attack the fruit for food or for nests for their larvæ. God has provided means to prevent their doing evil. These means are the birds. Naturally every grove, field, prairie, swamp, lake, hill and vale is alive with birds of various sizes and characteristics, adapted to the varieties of the insect world. They live chiefly upon insects. Hence before man destroys the birds, the trees and their fruit are never much injured by insects. God provides a balance between insects and the feathered world; but man in his cruelty and impiety destroys the balance, and the insects creep upon his fruit to pay him for it. It is only after civilization has destroyed the birds of a country that insects overrun it. And we seriously doubt whether all the ingenuity of man can supply the want of birds.

Our natural remedy for the fruit then is the birds. We should encourage them to grow and multiply in all our fields and orchards. We should never alarm or destroy them. We should hold them as the naturally commissioned sentinels of our fruit trees. We should regard them as natural ornaments and conservators of our orchards and gardens. We should feel that the birds of a country are its standing army, self-marshalled and trained to meet and overpower the invading armies of the insect world. The destruction of a bird should be considered a public loss. The intentional destruction of a bird should be held an outrage upon the divine order and human interest. All agriculturists, fruit-growers, gardeners, philanthropists, all good people should discountenance the destruction of birds and encourage their multiplication by the very kindest treatment. The press should sharply censure every bird hunter. The pulpit should set forth this divine arrangement to hold in check the insect scourges, and pronounce it a sin to harm a bird. It should become the settled conviction of every community, that birds are public benefactors.

Sulphur and the Grape Disease.

It will be remembered by most of our readers that a disease has prevailed among most of the grape vines of Europe and the islands, to that extent that the failure of the crop has almost led to famine. The grape vines of Europe are of an entirely different species from those grown in the United States. These vines have been propagated from cuttings from time immemorial. And from the violence with which this disease, for the last few years, has prevailed, threatening the total extinction of the vine, we

had begun to regard it as an evidence of the theory of Mr. Knight and others, that all varieties of fruit have a limited period of duration. But recent advices inform us that the vine disease yields to the application of sulphur and from present appearances it may be entirely eradicated.

In France, the annual value of the grape crop amounted before the disease appeared, to more than 300,000,000 francs, but has been reduced to less than one-half this amount. The mode of applying the sulphur is by mixing it with salt and water and applying it with a brush.—Should the disease find its way across the water, this information may be valuable to the American vine grower.

BERRIES.

The Strawberry, the Raspberry and the Blackberry, are among the greatest luxuries with which bountiful nature has supplied us, in this latitude. To our taste, there is nothing more delicious, particularly than the first two named. The Blackberry is known to possess important medicinal virtues, and its frequent use is recommended by many intelligent physicians as a preventive against the various bowel complaints, so frequent in early summer, especially among children. But for this object the fruit should be perfectly ripe, and cooked. When thus prepared it may be eaten daily, in moderate quantities, and will exert a healthful influence over the system.

And yet how few of our farmers take pains properly to supply themselves with these delicacies! Ten or fifteen years ago they grew wild, in abundance, and could be had for the mere picking. But since then, long fences have dragged their serpentine courses through the woods and over the prairies, and the plow has uprooted the vines and bushes. Whoever wants berries now must cultivate them.

Yet this will be found just about as cheap as it was formerly to gather them. The labor and time formerly required to walk a mile or two to the berry patch will suffice to cultivate an ample supply for a family. Besides, the fruit will be larger and better, and can at any time be had fresh, and before it has lost its flavor.

We say, do not fail to supply yourselves with berries. If you cannot do better, transplant and cultivate the wild varieties. But at a trifling cost you can obtain the best varieties of improved fruit. They will require but little attention and labor, and will not take up much room in the kitchen garden.

THE NURSERY BUSINESS.

Of all the avocations in society, there is none more responsible than that of the Nurseryman. In the various kinds of business pursued by our fellow men there is more or less opportunity for deceit and fraud. In the Nursery business there are peculiur facilities for deception. The purchaser depends entirely upon the representations of the Nurseryman as it regards the various trees and plants which he obtains. If the Nurseryman is an honest and intelligent man and has managed his business with the strictest system, having his grounds so arranged as to have each variety of fruits and plants in its separate department, and has also given his personal attention to the grafting, budding, &c., of the different varieties, so there shall be no chance for mixture or confusion, then, we say, the purchaser may and will obtain the varieties of fruit trees, &c., he desires. But if the nurseryman is not honest and lets his business run to loose ends, depending upon the help he hires, the purchaser will be disappointed. And what disappointment can be greater than for one to purchase a large collection of fruit trees, prepare the ground and plant them with the greatest care, watch over and nurse them year after year, trim and train them into nicely formed trees, with expectations that they will repay him for all the care and anxiety bestowed upon them, and hoping in the evening of life to enjoy the fruits that have been cultivated and nourished by his own hands, and as he thinks he is about to enjoy them, finds that he has been deceived. That the money paid for the trees has been squandered, and worse, that the use of the ground, the labor bestowed upon them, have been lost; that the affection which had been formed from his long intercourse with them must be turned into hate, and the trees in all their beauty must be cut down because they do not bear good fruit. Instead of the finer varieties of fruits which he bargained for, he finds he has only the poorest seedling trees. What must be the feelings of a man, we ask, to find that he has been so outrageously deceived by his nurseryman? His work must all be done over again. But the next trees we warrant will come from a man whose word can be relied upon. Now this is no fancy sketch. Cases like these we have heard of repeatedly. Some nurserymen are always prepared to fill any order one may make. If they have not the proper labels they can be very easily prepared.—The "almighty dollar" is of more importance to them than their fair fame. Are we saying too

much, then, when we repeat, great responsibility rests upon the Nurseryman? That he should, by all means, be a man of the strictest integrity, whose word can be implicitly relied upon, and who should no more knowingly sell you a tree, not true to name, than he would filch from your pocket, and who would take every pains to have the strictest accuracy prevail in all his nursery operations, so as to prevent any error.

The Nursery business is a very important one. There is an increased demand for trees of all kinds yearly. We want more good nurseries and nurserymen, especially in the West. The demand is not half supplied. Never in the history of our country has the West been in a more growing condition than now. And we need nurseries, large and well conducted ones to supply the wants of the people. We want such varieties of fruit trees grown as are adapted to our own soil and climate.

We are led to make these remarks on account of the establishment, near our city, of the *St. Louis Nurseries*, by M. G. Kern, formerly of Cincinnati. We have been acquainted with Mr. Kern for many years, and know him to be a gentleman of the strictest integrity and thoroughly qualified to conduct a Nursery in all its departments. He has made horticulture his particular study for many years, and is well acquainted with those varieties of fruits adapted to Western cultivation. He is author of an excellent work on practical Landscape Gardening, which has an extensive circulation, and has received high encomiums from the press. From our knowledge of the man we believe his business will be conducted with the strictest accuracy, and that no one who patronizes him will have cause to regret it.

Saving Garden Seeds.—The first vegetables, peas or snap beans that appear, *save for seed;* the first stalk of okra that shows a pod, let it go to seed; the first cucumber, squash or melon save for seed. In this way, we may succeed in getting much earlier vegetables than by following the usual method of taking the refuse of all our garden crops. Save the earliest and best of every thing for seed. Our egg plants might be brought into bearing much sooner, if we would save the first for seed.—Who can stand it, with all the long year's dearth of delicious morsels, to save the first roasting ear or tomato, that may appear for seed? and yet if we would bring forward the whole crop two or three weeks earlier, it must be done. Let it be a settled maxim of the gardener—*the first and best of everything for seed.*

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

GRAPES AGAIN.

Editors Valley Farmer.—In your June number I notice an article, "A few words on grapes," from the pen of my valued friend, Mr. F. Munch, of Marthasville, wherein he notices, in terms almost too flattering, my little essay on grape culture. But while indebted to him for his good opinion, I must yet differ on several points.

He says, the Norton's Virginia Seedling is not, according to his experience, a good bearer, and is apt to suffer in severe winters; and that the Le Noir is too tender to suit him, if he can have hardier varieties of the same, or even greater virtues; and that the North Carolina is fit for the table as well as for wine.

Now here we differ. I have had a thorough experience with the first named variety, and found it, although not as productive as some kinds, yet universally producing good crops, at an average of about a quart per vine, or 300 gallons per acre, and the wine is of such excellent quality, as fully to make up for any less quantity it may produce. I am fully convinced that the produce of an acre of these vines would come up to $500 per year, if properly managed and cultivated. As to hardiness, I have found it hardier than all the varieties I cultivate, except the North Carolina, and would, on that account, recommend it to all who have cold situations, and yet wish to raise grapes.

The Le Noir is tender, it is true, but who would begrudge a little extra labor in covering the vines, to such an excellent variety in all other respects. Surely not Mr. Munch, or any who work in a kindred spirit. I saved my vines the last severe winter, by merely covering with earth, which, the way I practice it, will cost, perhaps, $6 an acre, and I am sure if Mr. Munch could see them now, in all their rich luxuriance, he would like them, although they are tender. I think this grape the very best I have tried yet, excellent for table, good for wine, the best bearer we have, producing at the rate of 500 to 600 gallons an acre. Indeed a neighbor of mine, Mr. Noe, has gathered and made from 7 bearing vines, 13 gallons of Must. Moreover, it has a most luxuriant habit of growth, a beautiful foliage, and keeps its leaves fresh and green until October. Everybody, who will plant but one vine for table use, ought to have this variety. Lastly, the North Carolina, as I have it, (although it may not be the variety Mr. Munch mentions) is hardy, an abundant bearer, and may make a good wine, but is too astringent for table use.

Thus far my remarks on Mr. Munch's article. I have several varieties of those he recommends under trial, as well as some others, some of which will bear this year, and I shall report on them in due time, when I have more leisure than at present.

The Catawba looks very promising this year and our vineyards here present a truly glorious aspect, as also the orchards, and I hope to send you in due season, some specimens of as fine fruit as can be raised any where in the West, or East either. Hoping that these hasty re-

marks, written when business is so pressing, may contribute their mite to keep up the interest in Grape Culture, I remain,

Most respectfully yours,
GEORGE HUSMAN.

(Written for the Valley Farmer.)

GRAPE CULTURE IN MISSOURI.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—I will attempt to give you the results of grape raising in Gasconade, Warren and Franklin counties, as far as I am acquainted with it. I deem it hardly necessary to give the rules and ways by which the grape might be cultivated; this has been done sufficiently by far more able and distinguished writers than I am, but the results of this branch of agriculture in the above mentioned counties is probably not generally known.

Perhaps 12 or 14 years ago the culture of grapes was first introduced to some extent in Herman in Gasconade county. The inhabitants of this little town are mostly Germans and the majority of these have emigrated from the wine growing districts in Germany. The face of the country in and about Herman is very broken and hilly, but according to the opinion of all professional wine raisers, very well adapted to the culture of grapes. Many experiments have been made with foreign grapes but most all failed almost entirely, until at last the attention of all the wine growers has been chiefly concentrated upon the Catawba grape. The year 1847 brought forth a very favorable season for grapes, but since only some few acres had been cultivated long enough to bear a crop, the result of these promising prospects was not much else but to encourage and induce many farmers in Warren and Franklin, also to embark in the culture of grapes. But the year 1848 beat all. Most all whose vineyards were old enough to bear, made brilliant crops. I will only give one instance. Mr. Boshel, in the vicinity of Herman, realized in that year upwards of $1200 off of not quite one acre. I was myself, with a great many other visitors in Mr. Boshels vineyards just before he commenced gathering, and indeed it was a delight to behold his vineyard. All and everything was in perfect order—the ground clear of weeds and grass—the posts erect, the vines nicely tied up, and the grapes large and heavy and in such abundance that in many places the leaves were hid by them. It is not to be wondered at that the news of such enormous results spread like wild fire. The excitement amongst the farmers ran high, in fact with some it bordered almost on madness; a great many farmers dropped everything and commenced trenching for grapes, but before the vineyards were old enough to bear, the excitement had pretty well run down. They discovered that the grape was subject to a great many losses, the rot being the worst one. Some attribute this rot to noxious dews, others to the sting of insects, but nobody can positively define what it is, and no successful preventive has so far been made known. Our distinguished "Far West," in Warren county, has been the most energetic and persevering grape raiser of all amongst my acquaintances. He has worked hard, for years, from day-break till dark, and if study dilligence and perseverance alone would insure a good wine crop, he would have certainly solved this problem, but he never did make an excellent crop; at least I do not consider one, or at the farthest two barrels of wine per acre a fair and proper compensation for one whole years hard labor. In Franklin county also, are several very industrious wine raisers. They made some tolerable good crops, but not one crop to induce others to embark in this business also. I have frequently seen the most flattering prospects in the month of August, prospects which were estimated to bring 5 and 600 gallons, but in less than three weeks the whole crop was reduced by the rot to about a half barrel. Such repeated discouraging facts have been the cause that by all regular farmers, the culture of grapes has been abandoned in a great measure. The vineyards are left to themselves; sometimes they are hoed or plowed once in the spring, but the vines are neither trimmed nor tied up, and singular enough, sometimes in the fall when a vine is pulled out of the grass it is full of the choicest grapes. But I do not mean to recommend by this statement such a random culture as the proper one to raise grapes. I believe, if there is a proper way to insure a crop, we don't know it.

I shall make, before closing, only one more statement. A gentleman near Washington has a vineyard on the bluffs of the Missouri river of about one acre or a little more. He plowed it once or twice, had it pruned once and then let it do the best it might and he has made now two years in succession most excellent crops. Last year I am told, he made 350 gallons, while his predecessor on the same vineyard with the most care and industry, never made anything.—Should not the grape in its wild state, perhaps, prosper better than by being nursed and cultivated?

The opinion of the majority of the wine growers in our own and adjoining counties amounts about to the following: No farmer who cultivates ground enough to occupy his time should embark in grape raising to any extent. If he has a taste for such a culture, he may spend his leisure hours on a small patch. If he raises not enough grapes to go to the trouble to press them, they will at any rate be a great relish while they last, and if he has enough to make a few gallons or a barrel of wine, it would be a very nice supplemental benefit. But in and about Herman the grape culture will be probably kept up for many years yet, for this reason: Many inhabitants are in possession of more than one lot, and since lots are at present not much in demand, for building purposes, they would lay waste if not used as vineyards. Others in the vicinity have very small and often very indifferent farms. Such people are almost compelled to try to raise something else besides their commonly small crops of corn or small grain. Also people who live near St. Louis, or at least near a railroad depot, from where they can easily get their grapes to market, for table use, often succeed very well by raising grapes.

Campbellton, Mo. G. G.

Kentucky Horticultural Exhibitions—Fruit Culture.

The weekly exhibitions of the Kentucky Horticultural society the present season indicate an increasing interest and a marked improvement by the amateurs in the production of fruits and vegetables. The number of contributors has not been great, but the specimens exhibited are highly creditable to the cultivators. The strawberries exhibited generally have been extremely fair and of extraordinary size, showing that they had received the little care in the cultivation that is necessary to insure the best fruit. But while these exhibitions show with what ease this best of all fruits can be grown in the greatest abundance, our market has exhibited a striking contrast in the quality of this fruit as offered for sale. We have made it a point to pass through the market every day during the strawberry season; the strawberries offered for sale have been of a very inferior character, showing the neglect of culture that this fruit almost universally meets with. Every year there are thousands of strawberry plants bought at high prices and set out, and by mid-summer they are so far lost in the weeds that it would be difficult to see what had been planted.

The finest strawberries that have been offered in our market this season were brought from Cincinnati, and these too, at near the close of the season. The surroundings of Cincinnati, in almost every direction are broken hills and rocks, yet the gardeners there supply an abundance of strawberries to that great city of more than 100,000 inhabitants, and then supply the great deficiency in our own market, while every acre of land around Louisville is susceptible of being converted into the most productive garden.

To insure an abundant crop of strawberries the second spring after planting, it is only necessary to procure the right kinds, set them out according to directions so frequently published, and then keep the ground light and free from weeds by occasional hoeing, until September, by which time the ground will be so completely covered with vines that but little room will remain for weeds to occupy. A slight protection during winter by a covering of leaves or straw, and a thorough thinning of the plant in early spring will insure an abundant crop. Where fruit of extraordinary size is desired, the plants through the summer should be kept thinned and the runners cut off, but this mode, although it affords larger fruit, will not insure a greater quantity than when the vines are left to quite cover the ground, and in early spring receive the proper thinning.

Persons who wish to secure good crops for next year, must not neglect their beds the present season. If cultivated in time, and frequently, the labor is trifling compared with the luxury or profit this fruit affords.

The same may be said of Raspberries, Gooseberries, &c. The exhibition of Houghton's seedling gooseberry the present season has proved this the very best variety known for our climate. No appearance of mildew has been visible and the yield has been enormous.

[For the Valley Farmer.]

How to Prevent Caterpillers from injuring Fruit Trees.

Experiment after experiment has been tried to discover something that would effectually destroy this great pest of the orchards, especially in the Western States. As a general thing all these experiments have resulted in failures.—Many farmers make a business of going over the orchards every day and pulling the webs from the branches. This checks their ravages in a great degree, but it will not entirely destroy them, besides it is a great amount of trouble and labor. A new plan of affecting their destruction has recently been discovered, and is now practiced by many of the farmers of Illinois. Take a basin of very thin soap, and with a mop on the end of a long pole, go about your orchard and smear it over the nest and that portion of the branch upon which the nest is formed. One going over will be sufficient, as it will destroy them entirely. Destroy them in this way one year, and, perhaps in the next year there will not be a dozen webs in your orchard.

JAS. STEELE.

[For the Valley Farmer.]

To Prevent Rabbits from Barking Young Fruit Trees.

Give the body of the young tree a thorough rubbing with soft soap. This not only prevents the rabbits from barking them, but it protects them against insects, takes all the rough scales off, softens the bark, and renders them much more thrifty than they would be otherwise.—This simple receipe will be of vast value to the farmers in many parts of the West. Greasing will prevent rabbits from barking fruit trees but it will also injure the tree.

JAS. STEELE.

FRUIT when eaten should be perfectly ripe; it is then healthful. Fruit should constitute a much larger portion of our food than it does. Every farmer should raise all the finer kinds of fruits for the daily food of his family, it would greatly add to their health. Fruit has more beneficial effects when eaten in the middle or earlier part or the day.

The Home Circle.

HOUSEKEEPING TROUBLES.

Every avocation has its trials. Housekeeping is not exempt. The young housekeeper often thinks her lot the most vexatious and trying of any mortal's. It has its sharp trials indeed, but so has every sphere of labor and duty. That one is more trying than another may be true, but we question it. Trial is more equally divided among places and people than many suppose. The city matron who oversees a genteel mansion through the aid of many servants has her trials, and not the least of these is with her help. This servant is wilfull, that is lazy; this tells lies, that is not neat; this is too fond of company, that is the talebearer, and so on to the end. Her wardrobe must be kept up with the fashion. Milliners, dressmakers, shop-keeper's, &c., must be consulted and everything kept *"a la mode."* And here comes a fresh batch of trials. Such bad cutting and sewing, such tasteless arranging, such wretched fitting, such waste and cheat. The mansion must keep up—its name and character be sustained. Parties, suppers, balls must be given. Then come intruders and deceivers, poor drinks, heavy cakes and many errors. The strain to keep up with the fashion, and make good appearances, to be considered No. 1, is indeed trying. Compared with such a lot the ordinary country housekeepers is delightful. The city belle is worse off. She is a slave to caprice and folly, a butterfly sipping at flowers that have no sweetness.

Woman's lot, everywhere, has its trials. As mother, teacher, leader in social life, caterer to capricious taste, plaything, doll, show-form, drudge, seamstress or what not, she meets with sharp trial. The housekeeper has few as any.

And what are these? Sometimes the bread gets burned and sometimes it does'nt raise.—Sometimes the butter wont com, eand sometimes the fire wont burn. To-day the clothes cant be dried; yesterday the wind filled the house with dust. The baby cries when the pot is boiling dry, and the soap gets tipped over just as dinner is ready. Strangers come in just as a picked up meal is got; and poor flour comes with the best company. The flies infest this room, cock-roaches that, and bugs the bed. Wet wood, dirty men, mischievous children, &c., &c., make up the rest. Numerous little trials of a similar sort every housekeeper meets. They are trials. They tax the nerves and wear the patience.—They annoy and vex. But what of it? They are to be expected. Let them come. Better laugh than cry at them. The world should be taken the easiest way, so should housekeeping. Those little vexations make more scolding women than almost anything else. They wear out more nerves than larger trials. They consume time and destroy health.

Now every housekeeper should calculate that every other housekeeper has as many trials as she, that these things are incidental to domestic life. She should let them pass as the wind she heeds not. Turn them into sport; draw from them useful lessons; consider them as lessons for patience, opportunities to try temper and practice self-control. Trial is a part of life. We are all tried and tempted, and must be. So is gold tried in the fire and refined. So is the muscle tried and strengthened by patient usage. The heart is disciplined by sorrow; the soul is trained by effort; the mind is developed by meeting and overcoming obstacles. So the house keeper's trials ought to teach her lessons of patience, fortitude and forbearance.

THE CHILDREN.

"What shall I do with my children? I can't manage them; they won't mind; I can't do anything with them." This is the inquiry and confession of many a parent. We answer, something is wrong in your manner of treating them. Either you scold or whip too much, or humor too much, or are too capricious with them, and are not sincere and honest in dealing with them. How came they not to mind you? You have had their training, you ought to have taught them to mind when very young. By persevering effort you ought to have turned their young feet into the right paths. Begin with infants if you would have obedient children. Order their habits, control their actions, let them learn that you are to be relied upon and cannot be cried, or teased, or begged out of your word. Pursue a steady course and be firm, but not wilful or obstinate. As to whipping, it is seldom if ever needed. Scolding and fretting are still worse. Deceiving, hiring, flattering, frightening children is worse yet. All false stories told to children are in the end found out and teach children to lie.

"Come to me," said a mother in my presence to a little three year old boy just after dinner. The boy came. She took him upon her lap and began to rock him. "I don't want to go to sleep," said he. "No, no, Mama don't want

you should go to sleep; you shant go to sleep; Mama will keep her little boy awake. Sit still and I will rock you all nice." So after much coaxing and lying she got him quiet, and under the lulling rockaby he soon fell asleep. A dozen times she repeated to him the lie she was putting in practice. Will not that boy repeat the lesson she taught him that day by and by? So children are taught falsehood too often by their parents. If parents scold and whip, the children will soon learn how and will put it into practice. It will make them cruel and imperious. If the parent is tyranical, the child will learn the lesson. If the parent rules only by the force of his will, enforcing his commands with a cuff and a cudgel, he must expect the children will play back their tyrannous pranks. In a word children will catch the spirit of their parents.

They must be held in subordination by kind and steady means. They must be *taught* to obey; must be talked with much in the spirit of good will about their actions. It takes line upon line to manage children. It is sometimes not best to enforce obedience when they are angry. Call their attention to something else and so cool them off. When they are in a good spirit then set them right about the offence. Do not seem to observe all the children's pranks. Many things must be overlooked. It is not best to talk about their actions before them. Never let them know that you distrust your ability to govern them. Don't call them bad children. Don't speak of their faults to others. Don't underrate them. Don't tell them that they never obey you. Don't compare them with other children disadvantageously. Don't deceive them in the least matter. Talk kindly to them of their errors, and keep talking when you can make a good impression. If they are angry quiet their anger if possible before you attempt to reason with them. Whatever you promise them, fulfil it. Secure their confidence and give them yours. Watch their peculiarities and treat them accordingly.

A Jolly Life.—Insects must lead a truly jovial life. What must it be to lodge in a lily! Imagine a palace of ivory or pearl, with pillars of silver and capitals of gold, all inhaling such a perfume as never arose from censer! Fancy again, the fun of tucking yourself up for the night in the folds of the rose, rocked to sleep by the gentle sighs of summer air, nothing to do when you awake but to wash yourself in a dew drop, and fall too and eat your bedclothes!

PRAISE YOUR WIFE.

Praise your wife, man; for pity's sake give her a little encouragement; it won't hurt her. She has made your home comfortable, your hearth bright and shining, your food agreeable—for pity's sake tell her you thank her, if nothing more. She don't expect it; it will make her eyes open wider than they have for these ten years, but it will do her good, for all that, and you too.

There are many women to-day thirsting for the words of praise, the language of encouragement. Through summer's heat, through winter's toil, they have drudged uncomplainingly and so accustomed have their fathers, brothers and husbands become to their monotonous labors, that they look for and upon them as they do the daily rising of the sun and its daily going down. Homely, every day life may be made beautiful by an appreciation of its very holiness. You know that if the floor is clean, manual labor has been performed to make it so. You know if you take from your drawer a clean shirt whenever you want it, that somebody's fingers have ached in the toil of making it so fresh and agreeable, so smooth and lustrous. Everything that pleases the eye and the sense has been produced by constant work, much thought, great care, and untiring efforts, bodily and mentally.

It is not that many men do not appreciate these things, and a glow of gratitude for the numberless attentions bestowed upon them in sickness and in health, but they are so selfish in that feeling. They don't come out with a hearty—"Why how pleasant you make things look, wife!" or "I am obliged to you for taking so much pains!" They thank the tailor, giving them "fits;" they thank the man in a full omnibus who gives them a seat; they thank the young lady who moves along in the concert room—in short they thank everything out of doors, because it is the custom, and come home, tip their chairs back and their heels up, pull out the newspaper, grumble if wife asks them to take the baby, scold if the fire has got down, or, if everything is just right, shut their mouths with a smack of satisfaction, but never say, "I thank you."

I tell you what, men, young and old, if you did but show an ordinary civility toward those common articles of house-keeping, your wives, if you gave them the hundred and sixteenth part of the compliments you almost choked them with before you were married, if you would stop the badinage about who you were going to have when number one is dead (such things wives may laugh at but they sink deep sometimes,) if you would cease to speak of their faults, however banteringly, before others, fewer women would seek for other sources of happiness than your apparently cold, scottish affection. Praise your wife, then, and you may rest assured that her deficiencies are fully counterbalanced by your own.

DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

BLACKBERRY JELLY.—Blackberry jelly or jam is an excellent medicine in summer complaints or dysentery: to make it, crush a quart of fully ripe blackberries with a pound of the best loaf sugar, put it over a gentle fire and soak it until thick, then put to it a gill of the best fourth proof brandy, stir it a while over the fire, then put it in pots.

BLACKBERRY SYRUP.—Make a simple syrup of a pound of sugar to each pint of water, boil it until it is rich and thick, then add to it as many pints of the expressed juice of ripe blackberries as there are pounds of sugar; put half a nutmeg grated to each quart of the syrup; let it boil fifteen or twenty minutes, then add to it a half a gill of fourth-proof brandy for each quart of syrup; set it by to become cold, then bottle it for use. A tablespoonful for a child or a wine-glass for an adult is a dose.

BLACKBERRY WINE.—The following is said to be an excellent receipt for the manufacture of superior wine from blackberries:—Measure your berries and bruise them, to every gallon adding one quart of water. Let the mixture stand twenty-four hours, stirring occasionally; then strain off the liquor into a cask, to every gallon adding two pounds of sugar; cork tight, and let stand till the following October, and you will have wine ready for use, without any further straining or boiling, that will make lips smack as they never smacked, under similar influence, before.

BLACKBERRY AND WINE CORDIAL.—We avail ourselves of the kindness of a friend to publish the following excellent receipe for making cordial. It is recommended as a delightful beverage, and an *invaluable specific*, for the diarrhœa or ordinary diseases of the bowels:—

Recipe—To half a bushel of blackberries, well mashed, add a quarter of a pound of all-spice, two ounces of cinnamon, two ounces of cloves. Pulverize well, mix and boil slowly until properly done; then strain or squeeze the juice through home spun or flannel, and add to each pint of the juice one pound of loaf sugar. Boil again for some time, take it off, and while cooling, add half a gallon of best Cognac brandy.

Dose.—For an adult, half a gill to a gill; for a child a teaspoonful or more, according to age.

CRACKERS FOR THE SICK.—One pound of flour, one egg, not beaten, one tablespoon of yeast; one tablespoon of cream, a little salt; mix all together with milk to a stiff paste, and beat them twenty minutes with a rolling pin, to be rolled in small round pieces, separately, very thin.

A PIECE OF CANDLE may be made to burn all night in a sick room, or elsewhere, where a dull light is wished, by putting finely-powdered salt on the candle until it reaches the black part of the wick. In this way a mild and steady light may be kept through the night from a small piece of candle.

APPLE FLOAT.—The white of two eggs well beaten; add to it four spoonsful of sugar, and six apples stewed and drained until quite dry. These ingredients must be beaten a long time; add also a lemon to it. Then make either a soft or a hard custard, and put it in the bottom of the dish, and lay the mixture on the top. Ornament with sugar mites.

APPLE PUDDING, (delicious!)—One pound of apples stewed and strained; one pound of sugar; six eggs, one pint of cream; six ounces of butter; glass of wine, and a little nutmeg. Paste on the bottom of the dish, and bake like a pie.

GATEAU DES POMMES.—Put three quarters of a pound of loaf sugar in a stew pan with a pint of water, and when dissolved and ready to candy, take two pounds of apples pared and cored, the peal of a lemon chopped very fine, and part of the juice. Boil it until quite still, and put in a mould; when turned out for use, stick it with blanched almond, and put a rich custard in the dish.

FINE MUFFINS.—One quart of milk three eggs, teaspoon of salt; four tablespoons of yeast; flour to make it stiff enough for a batter; butter the size of an egg. The milk must be blood warm.

COOKIES.—Ten ounces of sugar, one quarter pound of butter, one egg, large teaspoon of saleratus, dissolved in two thirds of a tea cup of milk. They should be rolled very often.

CORNS.—The best cure for these troublesome things that we have ever tried, says the Scientific American, is to soak the feet in hot water for a quarter of an hour, so that the corn becomes soft, and then trim it off as close as possible, and not cause pain. Then take the tincture of the Arbor Vitæ, placed upon a little cotton, and apply to the corn, and after a few applications the corn will not only disappear entirely, but will not be likely to return again.

EXCELLENT RELISH FOR A CONVALESCENT.—Cut some cod fish to bits the size of a pea, and boil it a minute in water to freshen it. Pour off all the water, and add some cream and a little pepper. Split and toast a Boston cracker, and put the above upon it. Milk and a little butter may be used instead of cream. It is said to be much relished.

CHARLES PUDDING, (fine.)—One cup of sugar, one cup of sweet milk, one egg, one tablespoon of melted butter; half a teaspoon of soda dissolved in the milk; teaspoon of cream of tartar sifted through the flour. Eat with wine sauce, and bake in a loaf.

RAISED WAFFLES.—Make a thick batter of milk and wheat flour, add four eggs, beat light; a gill of yeast, a spoonful of butter, let it rise some hours.

TO CURE HOOPING COUGH.—Take garlic, stew in water to a jelly; then add some hogs lard, and stew the water all out, then add turpentine, On going to bed rub the soles of the feet, palms of the hands and under the arms, and bathe in well. Continue till cured, which will be but a few days for it acts like a charm.

Editor's Table.

The Season and the Crops.

Since making up our last monthly report, unusual and important changes have taken place in regard to the crops. Throughout the South, South-western and Western sections of the country, the barley and wheat have been harvested. We have taken unusual pains to gather all the information possible from every available source in regard to the harvest and the condition of the grain crops.

Barley is somewhat variable. In some sections it has been more or less injured by the winter, and the Spring sown barley suffered from excessive rain and cold weather in the early part of the season, so that throughout the sections we have indicated, the yield per acre will be considerably below an average, although the crop in the aggregate will be large, because an unusual breadth was sown.

Wheat.—The accounts that reach us from every section of the country, with the exception of some limited localities, are of the most gratifying character. At the period of jointing there was every indication that wheat would be greatly injured by rust, but the favorable change in the weather which followed has caused the crop to mature with but slight appearances of rust in a few sections. During the wheat harvest we have traveled among the farmers through five wheat growing States, and with the exception of the great wheat growing valley of the Mohawk, (N, Y.) the harvest has been abundant and secured in good condition. In certain counties in New York, including the Mohawk valley, the weevil, or more properly the wheat midge, has destroyed a large portion of the crop, although since this destructive insect has made its appearance in this section many farmers have ceased to raise wheat. We examined the wheat from a number of fields near Rochester and also at Syracuse during the great trial of Mowers and Reapers by the United States Agricultural Society, and found fully two thirds of the heads destroyed. The insect is extremely small, and preys upon the juices of the grain in the early stages of filling. In some grains we noticed five or six of these insects. But, taking the wheat crop throughout the entire extent of the wheat growing section, from the extreme south to the north, and it may be set down as largely above an average per acre, while the aggregate product, owing to the great amount sown, may safely be set down at twenty-five per cent greater than any previous crop.

Corn.—The growing corn in all those portions of the west through which we have traveled, and so far as we have received accounts, presents an unusual clean, uniform and healthy appearance, although about three weeks later than in ordinary seasons. The present warm weather, however, may be expected to work a most rapid and favorable change. The ground, generally, is sufficiently moist and well pulverized, and with the present temperature of 85 to 95 degrees in the shade, will bring the crop forward with a rapidity seldom equalled, so that we may hope for a full crop of this important western staple.

Potatoes—This universal and indispensable esculent everywhere presents the most luxuriant and encouraging appearance—while corn and other spring crops were held in check by the cold weather, the temperature was well suited to the growth of the potato, particularly in the west, so that the native lovers of the root, as well as the rest of mankind may hope to obtain their next yearly supplies at a great decline from the rates of the past year.

Hay—The grass crop also is universally good and the season for "haying" has been remarkably fine.

Fruits and Garden Vegetables—While all other crops promise a most abundant yield, garden vegetables of every kind, where due care in cultivation has been bestowed, are remarkably fine and abundant. Fruits, also, except through a certain southern meridian unusually exposed to the effects of last winters frosts, are of the finest quality and in the greatest abundance, so that taking into the account all the various crops of the country the prospect is such as to truly make glad the husbandman. The accounts that reach us from the far south in regard to the great national staple, Cotton, are also encouraging while the prospect for Sugar is such that the crop of the present year will exceed by many thousand hogsheads that of any former one within the last four or five years.

Renewals.

With this number over one thousand subscriptions expire, which were obtained in our lecturing tour last fall, in the North-eastern portion of Missouri. Most of these subscribers commenced with the September number, and of course this, the August number, completes the year. We hope and believe that all have been pleased with our journal and that none have had cause to regret that they subscribed. We also trust that they will not wish to part with us, but feel willing to keep us company another year, and many years to come. We will endeavor not to lead them astray, but to furnish sound and reliable counsels in all matters pertaining to the management of the farm, the orchard, the garden, stock, &c., &c.

We hope our friends will not forget our terms are cash, and that if they want the Farmer continued to them, it will be necessary for them to renew their subscriptions. When they do this can they not induce some of their neighbors to join them. Will not each of our old subscribers, in renewing his subscription, send us at least one or two new ones. By so doing they will greatly oblige us and give us the means to furnish them a still better paper. We shall expect to hear from them all the present month.

The excellent article on the Dairy in this number is from our esteemed contributor, Hettie Hayfield. Her articles alone are worth the subscription price of our journal. She is a lady of great experience who has treasured up a large store of practical knowledge, which to the young housekeeper, especially, will be of great value. We have secured her valuable services and hereafter each number will contain an article from her pen.

Mr. T. M. Easterly, of St. Louis, is about to visit many of the counties in Missouri, and persons wishing to subscribe for the Valley Farmer, can do so with him, his receipt being as good as our own.

Great National Trial of Mowers and Reapers at Syracuse, N. Y.

The most important trial of Harvest Machines that has ever taken place in this country, was commenced at Syracuse, N. Y., on the 13th of July, under the direction of the officers of the United States Agricultural Society. There were present on the occasion, among many distinguished persons, Gov. King, of New York, and Gov. Morehead, of Kentucky. On the first day but little was done besides preparation for the trial and a display of the numerous machines on the ground. On Tuesday, the 14th, the Governors of New York and Kentucky were escorted to the Show Grounds of the Onandago county Agricultural Society, where the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, President of the United States Agricultural Society delivered a very appropriate address, in which he alluded to the wonderful improvements that has been made in implements and machines of Agriculture, and the improved and elevated character of the tillers of the soil, and after giving some general instructions to the judges of the trial, concluded by introducing to the persons assembled, the Governors, whose names we have given, each of whom delivered a short but most eloquent and appropriate address. Gov. Morehead was heartily cheered, and through his entire stay in the city received the most marked attention from the authorities and from individuals which must have been equally gratifying to his feelings and flattering to the pride of the State he had the honor to represent.

There were ninety-two entries of machines for trial at the time we examined the books of the Secretary, and it is probable that some others were afterwards entered, but there were not so many different machines on the ground, as some were entered in the form of a mower, a reaper and combined machine, making three entries for one machine. There were also some that were entered, which, when their owners ascertained the thorough test to which they were to be subjected and the improved character of some of the machines with which they had to contend, declined entering the contest. The judges were men of great practical intelligence, selected from various portions of the country, so that the public at large, after so thorough a trial, may rely with some degree of confidence, upon their decision. All the machines were first weighed and then tried in cutting each an acre of grass, then an acre was set apart for each mower, and three were examined at a time by the judges, until all had received a full and thorough examination of their respective merits, and then each cu tan acre, when the comparative weight of draft was ascertained. The same process was then gone through with each of the reapers, and from the trials in grass and grain the comparative merits of the combined machines were determined.

The trial will not be concluded before the 24th or 25th of the month, at too late a period for us to furnish a full report for this number of the Valley Farmer. We therefore defer further notice of the trial until our next, when we shall take occasion to speak of some of the merits of the various machines on trial.

The officers and judges have concluded to withhold their report and all the knowledge of the awards until the annual fair of the Society at Louisville in September next.

TRIAL OF REAPING AND MOWING MACHINES BEFORE THE ST. LOUIS AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL ASSOCIATION.—This interesting trial came off on the farm of Mr. T. T. January on the 10th and 11th of July. A large number of gentlemen noted for their intelligence were in attendance. The day was excessively hot, which was rather unfavorable for spectators and teams. Several of the reapers and mowers were late in getting on the ground, so that the trial did not take place till near noon when Sol was pouring down his hottest rays.

The part of the meadow assigned for the trial was measured off in plats of an acre each. The ground, we regretted to see, was somewhat uneven—some plats being much more hilly than others—thereby giving some of the machines an advantage. In the trial of time this was quite an item, but in the quality of the work it made no particular difference.

The following machines were entered in the contest for premiums for the best Mower, viz:

Atkins' Combined Reaper and Mower, manufactured by John S. Wright & Co., Chicago, Ill., five and a half feet cut.

C. R. Ruggs' Reaper and Mower, J. B. Chadwick, agent, St. Louis, 6½ feet cut.

Kentucky Harvester, manufactured by Miller, Wingate & Co., Louisville, Ky., Landreth & Son, St. Louis, agents, 5½ feet cut.

Ball, Aultman & Co's. Mower, manufactured at Canton, Ohio, Sigerson & Bros., agents, St. Louis, 5½ feet cut.

Hubbard's Iron Mower, Clark, Plant & Norris, manufacturers, St. Louis, 5 feet 8 inches cut.

H. F. Mann's Great Western Iron Mower, Westville, Laporte county, Indiana.

Geo. Esterly's Reaper and Mower, Hard Prairie, Wisconsin, T. M. Esterly, agent, St. Louis.

The contest was animated in the extreme. The machines were all good, the work was well done, but some of the teams were urged at a faster gait than others. There was also a difference in the teams—some having been fed on grain and used to work, while others were fresh from the pasture, and it would not answer to drive them as rapidly as though they were in a better condition for work. As it was, it was feared that some of the poor horses would not survive the day. The friends of the different machines gathered in groups near their favorites and watched the contest with great anxiety.

The following is the time in which the machines finished their acre:

Atkins' machine in.....	34 minutes.
C. R. Ruggs' machine in	38 "
Kentucky Harvester in.....	42 "
Ball, Aultman & Co. in.....	46 "

The other machines soon followed.

The meadow was very heavy, set in timothy and red clover, and would yield about two tons to the acre. Some of the acres set apart contained more timothy, and others more clover, which is less favorable to the operation of the machine.

The mowing machines having accomplished ther tasks the crowd was invited to dinner, which had been prepared in a fine grove in the meadow, and also at the elegant mansion of the proprietor.

After dinner the judges met to make the award to the best Mower, but it seemed to be a very difficult task, especially to the outsiders. The machines had to be

tried again, one by one, and their various merits tested, which occupied the time of the judges all the afternoon, the spectators waiting anxiously, as they were informed by the judges that the trial of Reapers would certainly come off during the afternoon; but at six o'clock it was announced that the trial of Reapers would be postponed to the following day. We have no doubt that the judges acted with the best intentions and did all in their power to bestow the premium upon the best machine, but it does seem to us that the trial of Reapers and Mowers ought to have been had in one day, or the spectators informed to the contrary at an earlier hour.

The Premium was awarded to the machine of Ball, Aultman & Co., as being in the opinion of the judges, the best Mower.

Our business was such that it was impossible for us to be present at the trial of Reapers the next day.

The following were entered: Atkins' Reaper and Mower, Kentucky Harvester, C. H. Buggs' Reaper and Mower, Manny's Reaper and Mower (old pattern,) and Esterly's Reaper and Mower.

Owing to the non-arrival of a portion of the machinery of Atkin's Reaper, it was withdrawn.

One acre of wheat was allotted to each machine.

Manny's machine performed the work in 30 minutes, Rugg's machine in 31 minutes, Kentucky Harvester in 31 minutes, Esterly's machine in 35 minutes.

The crowd now adjourned from the wheat field to the dinner table, where a sumptuous repast was furnished.

The judges again assembled, and after some time spent in examining the relative merits of the different machines, awarded to the Kentucky Harvester the Premium as being the best Reaper and the best Combined Reaper and Mower.

Mr. January did all in his power to accommodate all present. Notwithstanding his crops were needing his attention, yet he and those under him, were engaged in attending to the wants of the large crowd of visitors. Throughout the trial he showed himself to be the liberal, noble, high-minded gentleman, and he is certainly deserving some slight token for the generous manner in which he received and entertained the public during this two days trial.

We have not now time to speak of the fine farm stock, &c., of Mr. January, but at some future time we will visit his farm and furnish a description to our readers.

KENTUCKY STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—NOTICE TO EXHIBITORS.—Those persons who wish to ship articles for exhibition at the Kentucky State fair, at Henderson, while navigation is good, are notified that Mr. W. E. Milton, Commission merchant at Louisville, will receive and forward all such articles; and Messrs. Chas. H. Powell & Co., of Henderson, will receive and store them. No charge will be made for commisson or storage, but all other expenses must be provided for.

Entries for exhibition may be made with Mr. Milton in Louisville, and he will start to Henderson a few days before the fair, and will take charge of small articles for exhibition.

The society incurs no responsibility for loss, damage, or expense, in all such cases.

Friendly papers please publish.

ROBERT W. SCOTT,
Corresponding Secretary.

HOW TO HELP US AND YOUR NEIGHBORS.—There is no better way to help us and your neighbors too, than to show them the VALLEY FARMER. When they see upon what excellent paper it is printed, and the neat style in which it is done, and the valuable articles contained in each number in its Agricultural, Stock Growing, Horticultural and Home Circle departments, and also the useful advertisements which it contains, exhibiting the best farming machinery and implements with the very latest improvements—they will subscribe for it without a doubt. Our friends can aid us in no better way than to exhibit a number. It needs no recommendation when carefully read. It speaks for itself; so say all our readers. With one copy in hand almost any person could obtain from twenty to one hundred subscribers in his own neighborhood. Let your neighbors see the FARMER, then, and they will soon become convinced that they ought not to be without it. With our present facilities we can safely promise that there will be a constant improvement in our journal. All that can be done for the benefit of our readers shall be done. The season of the Fairs is approaching and we shall give full accounts of everything of interest to the agriculturist.

SMITH'S PATENT GANG PLOW.—There was recently a trial of this plow on our farm near St. Louis. The public were invited to attend to witness its operation, consequenfly a number of persons interested in the result of the trial were present. Our readers will recollect that we gave a cut of this plow in the February number of the Valley Farmer for this year. By reference to the cut and description its method of working will be fully understood. The plows are carried on three wheels. From one to four furrows are turned at a time.

At this trial one pair of horses was used, and three furrows were turned at a time. The furrows are made shallow or deep at the will of the driver. We took the driver's seat and some of the time plowed as deep as twelve inches, at other times we let the plows run 6 or 8 inches deep. When plowing very deep it was rather hard work for the team. We had some two or three children riding with us all the time who seemed to enjoy the fun very much. A farmer can now take his wife and children with him and "all take a ride" as he turns over mother earth. What an improvement on plowing with crooked sticks, as the ancients did.

Entire satisfaction was expressed by all who witnessed its operation. The ground on which the work was done was in good order for plowing and free from all obstructions. We should have been pleased to have seen it work in rough ground, but at this season of the year land is generally covered with crops. From what we saw of the plow and from the opinion of others who witnessed the trial, and who had no interest in the plow, we feel willing to give it our approbation, believing it to be one of the most important labor-saving implements to the farmer that has been invented. A man with this implement can as easily plow eight acres a day as he can two acres a day with the common plow. It can also be used as a sub soil plow, and it is certainly better adapted for sub-soiling than anything we have ever seen. The sub-soiling and breaking goes on at the same time. We hope to see it extensively adopted.

An Impostor.

We paid a short visit to the city of Quincy Ill., a few days since and while there was informed by the postmaster that a large number of farmers living near had called at that office for the Valley Farmer, having subscribed for it to some person who professed to be a traveling agent to procure subscribers for that journal.—Some of the persons so calling stated that the agent had obtained in some neighborhoods as many as twenty-five or thirty subscribers and that he met with excellent success.

Now at that time we had no traveling agent in Illinois, and whoever was soliciting subscribers, did so without the slightest authority from us. How many subscribers he obtained we have no means of knowing. He certainly has not forwarded any to us. We presume the same individual is still traveling and obtaining subscribers for our journal, and whoever will apprehend him and notify us will be liberally rewarded. We could not learn his name but presume he changes it as often as circumstances call for it. We have no traveling agent unless his name is published and he is authorized in our journal to act as such, and we will reward any person liberally to arrest any stranger who professes to be a traveling agent, who is not expressly authorized in our journal to act as such—for he is an imposter.

This is not the first person who has taken advantage of the popularity of our journal to obtain subscribers, and thereby cheat and defraud the honest farmer—and we hope the farmers for their own protection will take the matter into their hands and arrest the first stranger professing to be our agent who is not properly authorized.

MR. J. H. CHAPIN, formerly of Galesburg, Illinois, is our only authorized traveling agent in Ill. Subscriptions paid to him will be the same as if paid to us.

Fall Barley.

W. S. W., Jackson Co., Mo., makes several inquiries which we will answer. Fall barley should be sown about the 15th of September. We know of no variety of barley that has not beards. The yield, when a good crop is grown, is thirty or forty bushels per acre. We have grown fifty bushels to the acre. About two bushels of seed should be sown to the acre.

Crops in Western Missouri.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—I fear this will prove a year of disaster to the farmers of this section of our State. The wheat crop has resulted in a "magnificent failure;" there will not be half wheat enough raised in this county for seed. The oats are now ready for the sickle and will not turn out half a crop. Our corn is burning up with drouth, and without a rain in a few days, will be in as "bad a box" as the oats or wheat. Our land has not been wet since the 12th of May, consequently everything is scorched up and covered with dust. It is not only the case in this county, but also in a large portion of Lafayette, Jackson, Saline, Carrol and Clay. Our hemp looks better than any other crop, but there are hundreds of acres in the counties mentioned that will not be cut. We do not anticipate more than two-thirds of a crop of Hemp. Respectfully. B. A. B.

RAY Co., Mo., July 20, '57.

St. Louis Fair.

The second annual Fair of the St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association will commence on Monday, the 28th of September, and continue six days.

Over $16,000 are offered in Premiums! This will undoubtedly prove to be one of the greatest fairs ever held in the United States. The specimens of agricultural implements, the fine stock, and in fact the exhibition of every article of industry will well pay our friends in the country for their attendance. The most extensive preparations are being made for the exhibition. We have received a copy of the premium list. Those wishing to obtain a copy can do so by calling upon or writing to G. O. Kalb, general agent of the society. It is got up in fine style and is well worthy perusal.

AGRICULTURE OF MASSACHUSETTS.—We acknowledge our obligations to C. L. Flint, Esq., Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, for copies of the transactions from 1851 to 1855. Also the first part of the report for 1856, which is one of the most valuable documents of the kind that has emanated from any Society. This part of the report contains upwards of 300 pages, and is chiefly confined to the illustration and description of the grasses and forage plants grown in the United States, showing an amount of labor and research that has never before been bestowed upon this important subject by any other American writer.

We are glad to learn that this work has been published and is for sale by the popular house of Geo. P. Putnam & Co., New York. The grass crop far exceeds in value any other single crop in the United States, and Mr. Flint could hardly have done the American people a greater service than he has in the preparation of this work.

Since the establishment of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture in 1852 and the appointment of Mr. Flint as Secretary, there has been a most marked improvement in the arrangement and execution of these reports, highly creditable to the Secretary and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

We are also indebted to the same gentleman for copies of several other public documents, including the Report of the Commissioners on the artificial propagation of fish. In this report the commissioners acknowledge their obligation to Dr. Garlick, of Cleveland, Ohio, for sheets of his work on the propagation of fish, in advance of its publication. There is now no more important subject before the American people connected with domestic economy than the artificial propagation of fish, and we are glad to see Agricultural Societies advocating its claims and directing experiments to be made.

EDITORS VALLEY FARMER.—I wish you, through your valuable paper, to give us some information in regard to the Missouri State Agricultural Society, its standing, progress, &c.; where the State fair will be held, or (if in districts) how are they situated, and where will each one hold its fair and when. R. M. C.

ANSWER.—There is no State Agricultural Society in Missouri. There are five District Societies called the North Eastern, North Western, South Eastern, South Western and Central Districts, occupying these various portions of the State. By referring to the time of holding Fairs in Missouri our friend will obtain all the in-

formation we possess in reference to the time and place of holding the various district fairs.

CENTRAL DISTRICT FAIR.—We have received a copy of the Premium List of the Central Missouri District Agricultural Society, containing a premium essay on practical and Scientific Agriculture, by Prof. G. C. Swallow, State Geologist.

The second annual fair will be held at Boonville on the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 days of Oct.

OFFICERS OF THE ST. CHARLES CO. (Mo.) AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL ASSOCIATION.—David K. Pitman, President; Edw. A. Lewis, Vice President; Jos. H. Alexander, Secreary; John A. Richey, Treasurer; Wm. A. McElhiney, P. H. Fulkerson, R. F. Kenner, Sheltial Ball, Wm Stacy, Ezra Overall, Saml. S. Watson, John S. McDowell, Jacob Potter, John W. Robinson, Directors.

A Practical Treatise on the Construction Heating and Ventilating Hot Houses; including Conservatories, Green Houses, Graperies, and other kinds of Horticultural Structures. With Practical Directions for their Management in regard to Light, Heat and Air. Illustrted with numerous Engravings. By Robert B. Leuchar, Garden Architect. Published by C. M. Saxton & Co., New York.

We have carefully examined the above work and find the information it contains to be very valuable. Every person who has or expects to have a Hot House, Green House, Conservatory or Grapery, should by all means obtain this work. It supplies a want which has long been felt by those having such houses in charge. It abounds in valuable information and no one can peruse it without decided advantage.

For sale by J. M. Crawford, next door to the Valley Farmer office, Chesnut street, St. Louis, Mo. Price $1,25

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OFFICERS OF THE SALINE CO., (Mo.,) AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL ASSOCIATION.—Col. M. M. MARMADUKE, President; R. C. Robertson. L. B. Harwood, W. H. Finley and Col. G. W. Allen, Vice Presidents; G. M. Brown, D. J. Parsons, J. W. Lewis, M. W. O'Banion, David Vaughan, Rev. M. Bell, O. Hurt, B. Graves, Directors; W. Robertson, Secretary; Jesse J Ferril, Treasurer.

This Association will have a permanent location at Miami. The first fair will be held from the 15th to the 17th of September, 1857.

STATE FAIRS FOR 1857.—The following State Agricultural Societies have designated the time for holding their exhibitions:

Illinois, at Peoria	Sept. 21, 22, 23, 24.
Wisconsin, at Janesville	Sept. 29, 30, Oct. 1, 2.
New Jersey, at New Brunswick	Sept. 29, 30, Oct. 1, 2.
Pennsylvania, at	Sept. 29, 30, Oct. 1, 2.
U. S. Ag. Soc. at Louisville, Ky.	Sept. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.
Vermont, at Montpelier	Sept. 30, Oct. 1, 2.
Ohio, at Cincinnati	Sept. 15, 16, 17, 18.
Canada West, at Brandtford	Sept. 29, 30, Oct. 1, 2.
Canada East, at Montreal	Sept. 16, 17, 18.
East Tennesse, at Knoxville	Oct. 20, 21, 22, 23.
New York, at Buffalo	October 6, 7, 8, 9.
Iowa, at Muscatine	Oct. 6, 7, 8, 9.
Kentucky, at Henderson	Oct. 12, 13, 14, 15.
Maryland, at Baltimore	Oct. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25.
Massachusetts, at Boston	Oct. 21, 22, 23, 24.
Virginia	Oct. 28, 29, 30, 31.
West Tennessee, at Jackson	Oct. 27, 28, 29, 30.
Indiana, at Indianapolis	Oct. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.
New Hampshire, at Concord	Oct. 7, 8, 9.
Connecticut, at Bridgeport	Oct. 13, 14, 15, 16.
North Carolina, at Raleigh	Oct. 20, 21, 22, 23.
Alabama, at Montgomery	Oct. 27, 28, 29, 30.
South Carolina, at Columbia	Nov. 10, 11, 12.

FAIRS IN MISSOURI.

Montgomery Co	Sept. 16, 17, 18,
Boone Co	Sept. 22, 23, 24, 25,
Ray Co	Sept. 22, 23, 24, 25,
St. Louis Ag. & Mech. Assoc.	Sep 28, 29, 30, Oc. 1, 2, 3
Randolph Co	Sept. 2, 3, 4, 5,
Cass Co	Sept. 1, 2, 3.
Callaway Co	Sept. 22, 23, 24, 25,
St. Charles Ag. and Mech. Ass.	Sept. 22, 23, 24, 25,
Lawrence Co. Fair	Sept. 30, Oct. 1,
Jackson Co. Fair	Sept. 29, 30, Oct 1,
North East Missouri, at Paris	Sept. 15, 16, 17, 18,
Lafayette Co., at Union	Oct. 6, 7, 8,
Franklin Co., at Union	Oct. 8, 9, 10,
Marion Co., at Palmyra	Oct. 14, 15, 16, 17,
Clay Co,, at Liberty	Oct. 14, 15, 16, 17,
Knox Co	Oct. 20, 21, 22, 23.
South-eastern Di'ct, Cape Girerdeau,	Oc. 8, 9, 10,
Central District, Boonville	Oct. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,
Ralls Co.	Oct. 8, 9, 10, 11,
Saline Co. Fair	Sept. 15, 16, 17,

COUNTY FAIRS IN ILLINOIS.

Brown Co. Ag. Soc., Mt. Sterling	Oct. 7, 8,
Sangamon, Springfield	Oct. 16, 17, 18,
Morgan, Jacksonville	September 8, 9, 10, 11,
Stevenson	Oct. 7, 8, 9,
Winnebago, Rockford	Oct. 13, 14, 15,
Pike, Pittsfield	Oct. 14, 15,
Carroll, Mt. Carroll	September 22, 23, 24,
Campaign, Urbana	Oct. 6,
Tazwell, Tremont	Sept. 17, 18,
Edgar, Paris	Oct. 1, 2,